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SPAWN®

230
DIGITAL
EDITION



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THERE HAVE BEEN AT LEAST TWO DOZEN PEOPLE KILLED AND HUNDREDS MORE INJURED IN RENEWED VIOLENCE DEEP WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF EGYPT'S LARGEST CITY, CAIRO. WITH A STAGGERING POPULATION OF OVER 44 MILLION, POLICE THERE HAVE BEEN BATTLING CONTINUING CIVIL UNREST AND ORGANIZED RIOTING EVER SINCE THE COUNTRY'S LEADER SEIZED MOST OF THE DOWNTOWN AREA WITH HIS MILITARY TROOPS.

REPORTS HAVE SURFACED THAT THE ARREST OF SEVENTEEN PEOPLE IN CONNECTION WITH A DEADLY RIOT AT A SOCCER MATCH LAST YEAR-- HELPED SPUR THE INITIAL UPRISING. THE SEVENTEEN DEFENDANTS HAVE ALL BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION AT THE STADIUM WHERE 63 PEOPLE WERE TRAMPLED TO DEATH AND HUNDREDS OF OTHERS SUSTAINED INJURIES.



WHAT HAS SOME WORLD LEADERS CONCERNED... IS THE CONTINUATION OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OTHER PARTS OF THAT REGION. THE BORDERING COUNTRIES OF LIBYA AND SUDAN HAVE BOTH BEEN IN THE NEWS OF LATE BECAUSE OF THEIR OWN INTERNAL PROBLEMS DEALING WITH THEIR CITIZENS.

THE STRANGE JUXTAPOSITION OF WHAT'S HAPPENING THERE PLAYS SQUARELY IN THE FACE OF WHAT IS GRIPPING AMERICA'S ATTENTION. NAMELY THE RECENT APPEARANCE OF THE MYSTERIOUS MAN KNOWN BY THE NAME OF *JIM DOWNING*. WE'VE BECOME SO TRANSFIXED WITH HIS STORY-- OR LACK THEREOF, SINCE HE CAN'T RECALL ANY OF HIS PAST-- THAT WE SEEM SOMEWHAT BLINDED TO THE ATROCITIES CURRENTLY GOING ON AROUND THE WORLD.



I GET IT! WE ALL WANT TO THINK WE'LL ***LIVE FOREVER!*** AND THOUGH INTELLECTUALLY WE UNDERSTAND IT TO BE IMPOSSIBLE... ALONG COMES ***JIM DOWNING!*** ADORED BY US LOWLY HUMANS SO WILLING TO GIVE HIM THE MANTLE OF ***DIVINITY***. LIKE LEMMINGS, WE PUT OUR FAITH IN STRANGERS... ***BUT*** WHAT OTHER OPTIONS ARE THERE?!

FOR SUCKERS LIKE US... ***NOT MANY!***

WE HAVE TO RELY ON POLITICIANS AND THEIR CRONIES TO ASSEMBLE REASONABLE SOLUTIONS TO SOME OF THESE WIDESPREAD CULTURAL WARS. AND THOUGH WE'D ALL LIKE TO THINK A SCHMUCK LIKE DOWNING WOULD DO A BETTER JOB OF HANDLING SOME OF THE CRAP RUINING OUR WORLD, IT'S CONGRESS AND THE WHITE HOUSE THAT HAVE TO PROTECT US. ***GOD HELP US ALL!!***



"YOU CAN ALREADY SEE THE EFFECTS OF THESE GLOBAL POLICIES FAILING *MISERABLY!* ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TURN ON YOUR TELEVISION AND IT BECOMES *ABUNDANTLY CLEAR* OUR CURRENT GOVERNMENT IS CLUELESS IN ITS ATTEMPT TO STEM THE TIDE OF A CERTAIN COUNTRY'S HANDLING OF THEIR OWN CITIZENS."



"SYRIA AND LIBYA ARE BUT TWO EXAMPLES OF WHERE WE ARE EITHER LACKING LEADERSHIP OR SIMPLY BACKING THE *WRONG* SIDE IN THESE BLOODY CONFLICTS."



EVERYTHING'S IN UTTER CHAOS!
AND THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A SINGLE PERSON WILLING TO TAKE A BRAVE STANCE AGAINST THE EVIL IN THIS WORLD!

"AND!... *DON'T EVEN* GET ME STARTED ON THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S STANCE WITH THE NEVER ENDING *SLAUGHTER* BETWEEN ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN FORCES!"



1:27 A.M.

koff

koff

HLLSPWN: Got a bunch of nasty texts after my last posts. Didn't know I was so LOVED! You don't want 2 read my posts... then **DON'T!!!!** Tell your brain 2 move your feet and **WALK AWAY**. Or close your eyes. Or shoot yourself. U don't have to read this!!!

Hllspwn: But those that have 1/2 a brain... they already believe me. Jim Downing is a HELLSPAWN. I know the world thinks he's some kind of god or something but the proof is so obvious.

AngelsROK: do you ever sleep?!! Might do you some good.

Hllspwn: didn't I tell you... I'm a vampire. Just like in those stupid TWILIGHT flicks you love.

AngelsROK: You don't believe in vampires but U blog about demons? Nice consistency.



Hllspwn: Ain't no vampires in the bible. You should read it some time. Might learn something.

AngelsROK: Like you've read the whole thing

Redeemer69: OH NO!!!! you 2 aren't at it again?

AngelsROK: Morning Redeemer... ☺

Hllspwn: Hey, 'deemer... got some of that info you asked about



Hllspwn: The bible does talk about other resurrections but Satan controls them NOT God. That's why we have evil in us... becuz Adam couldn't see Eve was a temptress. That is why he bit the apple

AngelsROK: Temptress.... wooooooooooooooooo fancy word. Just say it. You think Eve was a bitch. A typical male thing to say.

Hllspwn: I'm not bashing Eve. She was duped 2. I keep saying we can't see the evil becuz it hides itself. That's what Downing is doing. Except he's HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT!! U just choose not to believe that. You're the kind that always bites the apple!!!

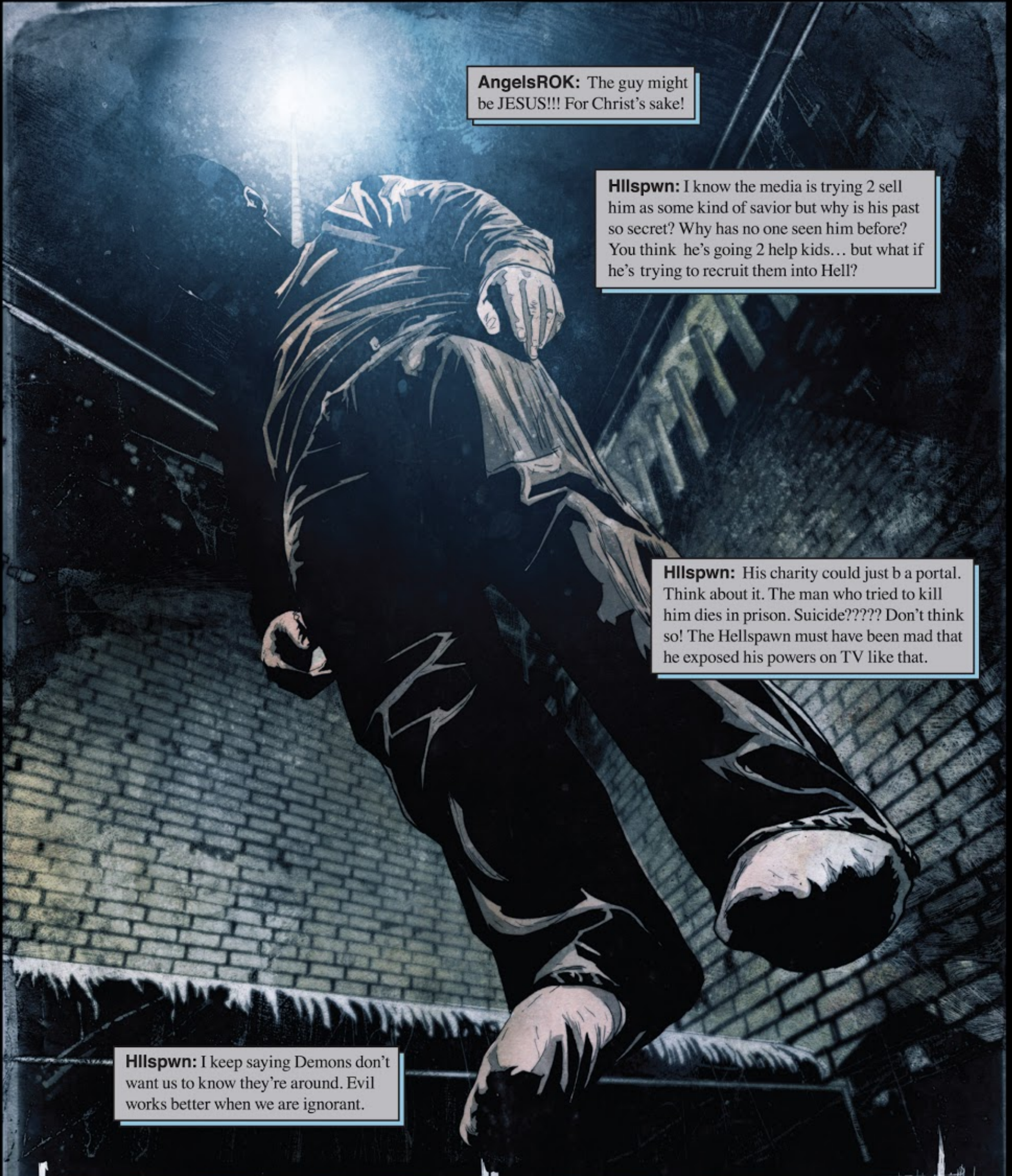


AngelsROK: Actually I own a PC

Redeemer69: LOL

AngelsROK: Here's my problem. This downing guy besides being a stud to look at has done AWESOME stuff. We've all seen it. He's helped fix others AND walked away after getting shot. The entire world is talking about the dude. Why bring a negative vibe? I think U r just jealous.





AngelsROK: The guy might be JESUS!!! For Christ's sake!

Hllspwn: I know the media is trying 2 sell him as some kind of savior but why is his past so secret? Why has no one seen him before? You think he's going 2 help kids... but what if he's trying to recruit them into Hell?

Hllspwn: His charity could just b a portal. Think about it. The man who tried to kill him dies in prison. Suicide????? Don't think so! The Hellspawn must have been mad that he exposed his powers on TV like that.

Hllspwn: I keep saying Demons don't want us to know they're around. Evil works better when we are ignorant.



Hllspwn: So I don't care how many miracles he performs. It's still the work of the devil... not HEAVEN!!!!





Hllspwn: but GOD help us all if I'm right and Heaven isn't able to stop him.



AngelsROK: What's frustrates me about what you're saying is when will u admit if you're wrong?? Bcuz if the good guys do good deeds AND the bad guys do good works... How can we ever tell them apart?

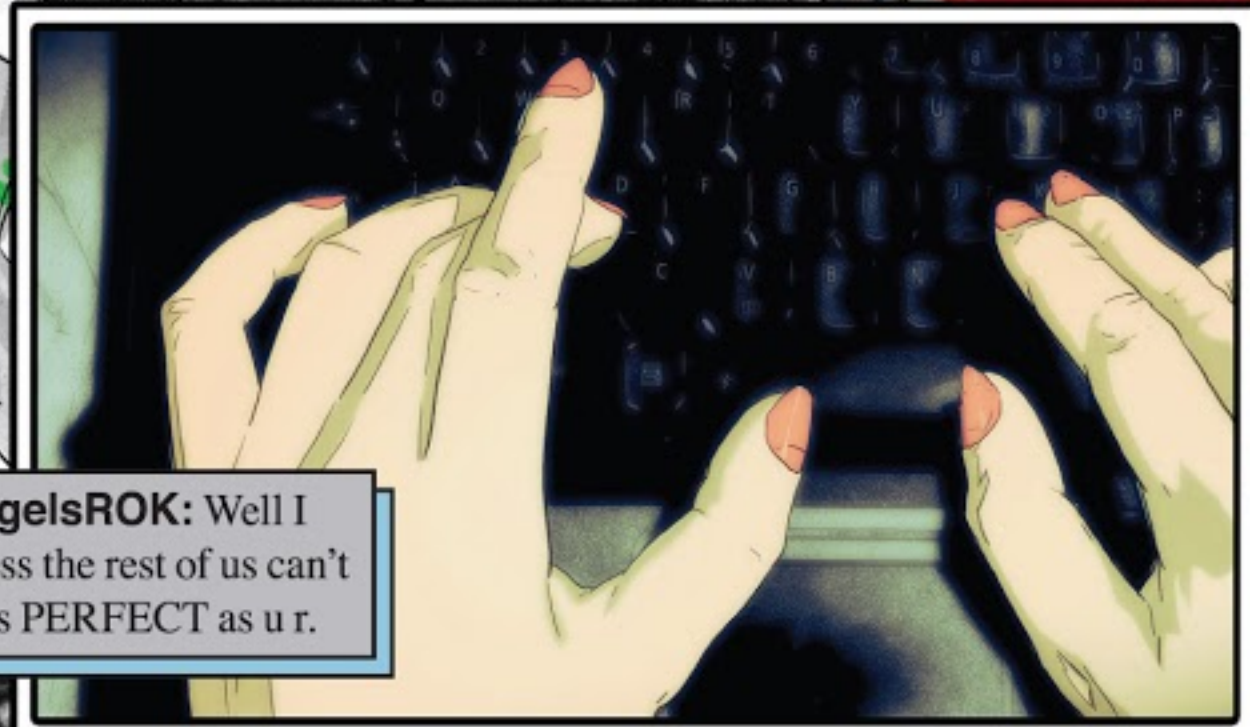


Hllspwn: I can. That's why I write about this shit.

Hllspwn: Especially if u saw the sketch I did over a screen grab of Downing.

koff

koff



AngelsROK: Well I guess the rest of us can't B as PERFECT as u r.



THANKS FOR COMING OVER EARLY, SARA. I WAS NEEDING... TO SEE A FRIENDLY FACE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO THANK ME. I'VE BEEN WANTING TO COME TALK TO YOU SOONER, BUT YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING YOURSELF BUSY, I'M SURE.

I GUESS.

SO WHAT'S IT LIKE? DEALING WITH ALL THE MEDIA AND THE CROWDS? IT WAS HARD ENOUGH FOR ME TO JUST GET INSIDE THE BUILDING. CROWD GOT A LITTLE CRAZY DOWN THERE. THEY STILL THINK I'M... YOUR GIRLFRIEND OR SOMETHING.

THAT'S KIND OF FUNNY... RIGHT?



I'M SORRY ABOUT ALL THAT. THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO. THERE'S ALWAYS A DOZEN OF THEM OUT FRONT ALL THE TIME. LUCKILY THERE'S THE BACK WAY I CAN TAKE OUT. YOU SHOULD HAVE COME THAT WAY.



NO. I TOLD YOU ON THE PHONE I DON'T WANT TO COME ACROSS LIKE I'M TRYING TO HIDE SOMETHING. IT'LL JUST MAKE THEM WRITE EVEN MORE GARBAGE. BUT SERIOUSLY...

HOW'RE YOU COPING WITH EVERYTHING?



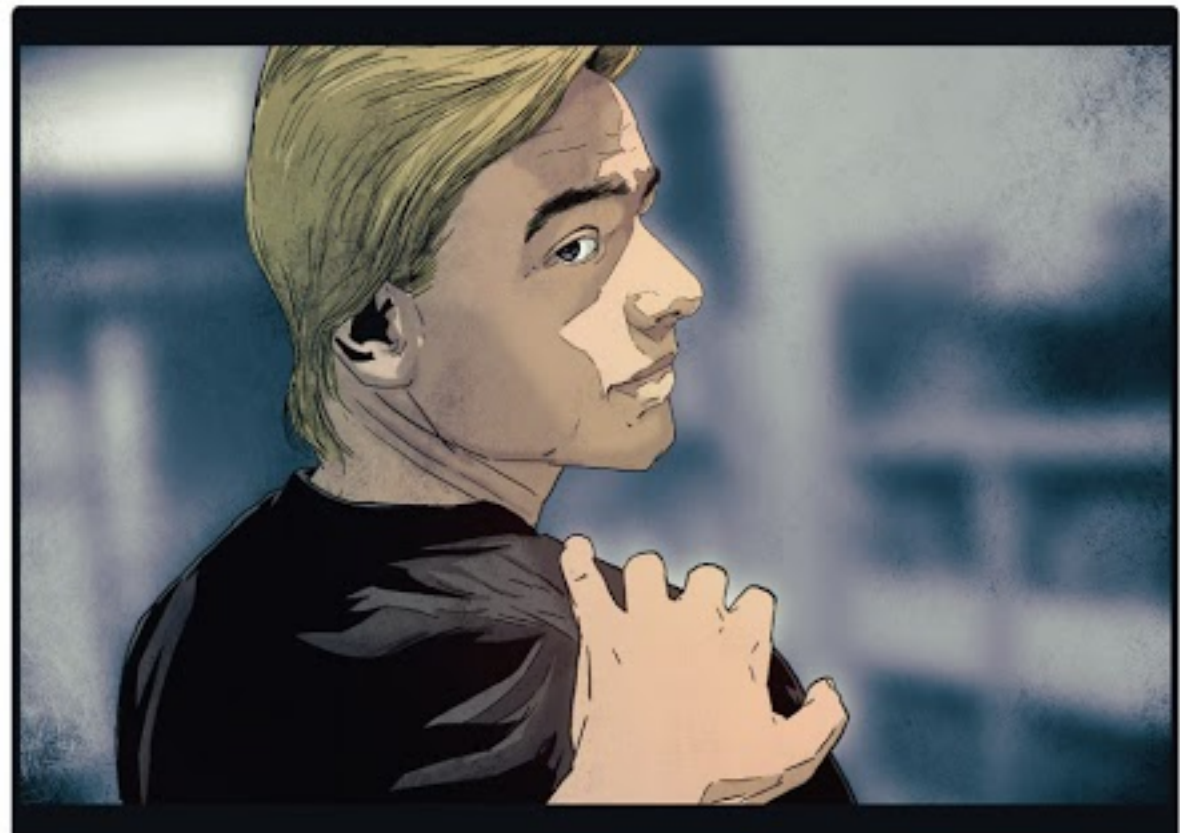
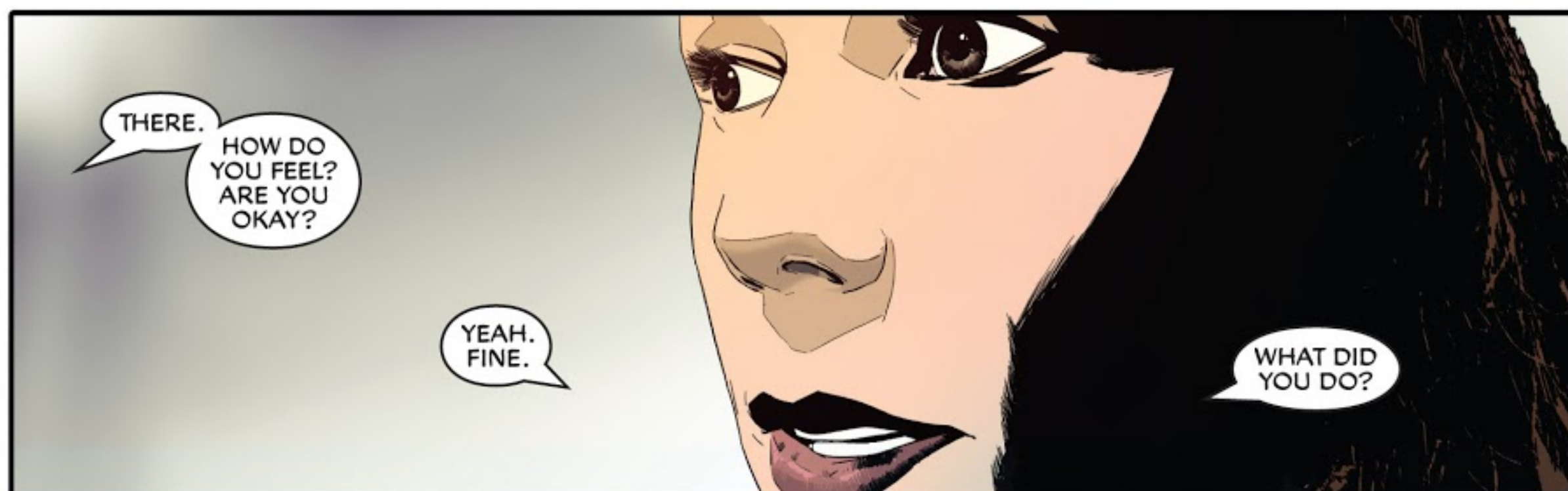
NOT BAD. SOME OF IT IS ACTUALLY GOOD. IT'S HELPING DRAW ATTENTION TO THE FOUNDATION-- WHICH IS WHAT WE WANT. I'M HAPPY TO TALK ABOUT THAT, BUT BEFORE YOUR GUESTS GET HERE, I WANTED TO SAY SOMETHING TO YOU.

THAT NIGHT-- WHEN I TOOK YOU INTO THE ALLEYS. WHEN I TOOK YOU... INTO THE SHADOWS. I DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU LIKE THAT. AND I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.*

YOU WERE TRYING TO HELP.

IT DOESN'T MATTER! I SAW IT IN YOUR EYES THAT DAY-- HOW MUCH I FREAKED YOU OUT-- AND I KNOW THAT'S WHY YOU LEFT TOWN BECAUSE I SCARED YOU. I KICK MYSELF FOR THAT.









DON'T ANSWER IT.
WE HAVE TO.
I KNOW.



HELLO?

THANKS.
SEND THEM
UP WHEN
YOU'RE
DONE.



THAT WAS
SECURITY DOWN-
STAIRS. OUR GUESTS
ARE HERE. THEY'RE JUST
GETTING THEIR PICTURES
TAKEN AND SHOWING
THEIR I.D. THEY'LL BE
UP IN A MINUTE.

I REALLY
APPRECIATE
YOU DOING
THIS FOR ME.
IT MEANS
A LOT.

Moments later.



GOOD
EVENING,
MR. DOWNING. I
AM FATHER HALLWELL,
AND IT'S AN EXTREME
PLEASURE TO MEET YOU
IN PERSON. WE'RE **VERY
GRATEFUL** YOU'RE WILLING
TO TAKE TIME FROM YOUR
BUSY SCHEDULE AND
MEET WITH US LIKE THIS.
SARA HAS SPOKEN VERY
HIGHLY OF YOU AND
YOUR ACTIONS-- THOUGH
IN TRUTH, WE'VE BEEN
FOLLOWING YOU
QUITE CLOSELY SINCE
YOUR SUDDEN
EMERGENCE INTO
THE
SPOTLIGHT.

AND FROM WHAT
WE'VE SEEN ALREADY--
YOUR POWERS-- THEY
REALLY ARE QUITE MIRACULOUS.
THOUGH WITH ALL THE ATTENTION
YOU'VE BEEN GARNERING, I'M
SURE I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE
THAT'S SAID THAT.

BUT UNLIKE THE
MEDIA OUTLETS WHO
ONLY WANT YOUR TIME, SO
AS TO BOOST RATINGS--
WE TAKE WHAT WE DO
VERY SERIOUSLY.



AND WHAT IS IT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO, FATHER?

WE'RE WANTING TO SEE-- GIVEN THE INTERNATIONAL INTEREST YOU'VE DRAWN-- IF YOU'D BE INCLINED TO ALIGN YOURSELF WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. IT IS THE POPE'S DESIRE TO SHOW THE WORLD THAT A MAN LIKE YOURSELF... WHO'S OBVIOUSLY BEEN GRACED BY 'GOD'S TOUCH'... IS A PART OF *GOD'S PLAN* AS FORETOLD IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

HE IS CONVINCED THAT IF YOU WERE TO JOIN HIM AND EMBRACE CATHOLICISM, NOT ONLY WOULD IT BRING GREAT COMFORT TO HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF HIS FAITHFUL... BUT YOU COULD POSSIBLY BE THE ONE *CATALYST* TO UNITE **ALL OF MANKIND** INTO BELIEF IN A SINGULAR RELIGION.



THERE ARE SO MANY WHO HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR PROOF OF THE ALMIGHTY'S PRESENCE. YOU COULD PROVIDE THAT UNIFYING VALIDATION.

WOW!... THAT'S... UM... I-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

I UNDERSTAND. AND IF I WERE IN YOUR SHOES-- I'M SURE I'D FEEL THE SAME WAY.

MY TASK IS NOT TO PRESSURE YOU OR MS. JOHNSTON. IT'S MERELY TO TELL YOU THAT WE CAN HELP YOU, IN WHATEVER WAY YOU'D WANT, TOWARDS ACCOMPLISHING YOUR GOALS. AS YOU MIGHT IMAGINE, OUR OUTREACH HAS BEEN ENTRENCHED IN MANY COUNTRIES FOR CENTURIES. WE CAN TAKE YOUR MESSAGE TO SO MANY WITH THE INFRASTRUCTURE WE ALREADY HAVE IN PLACE.

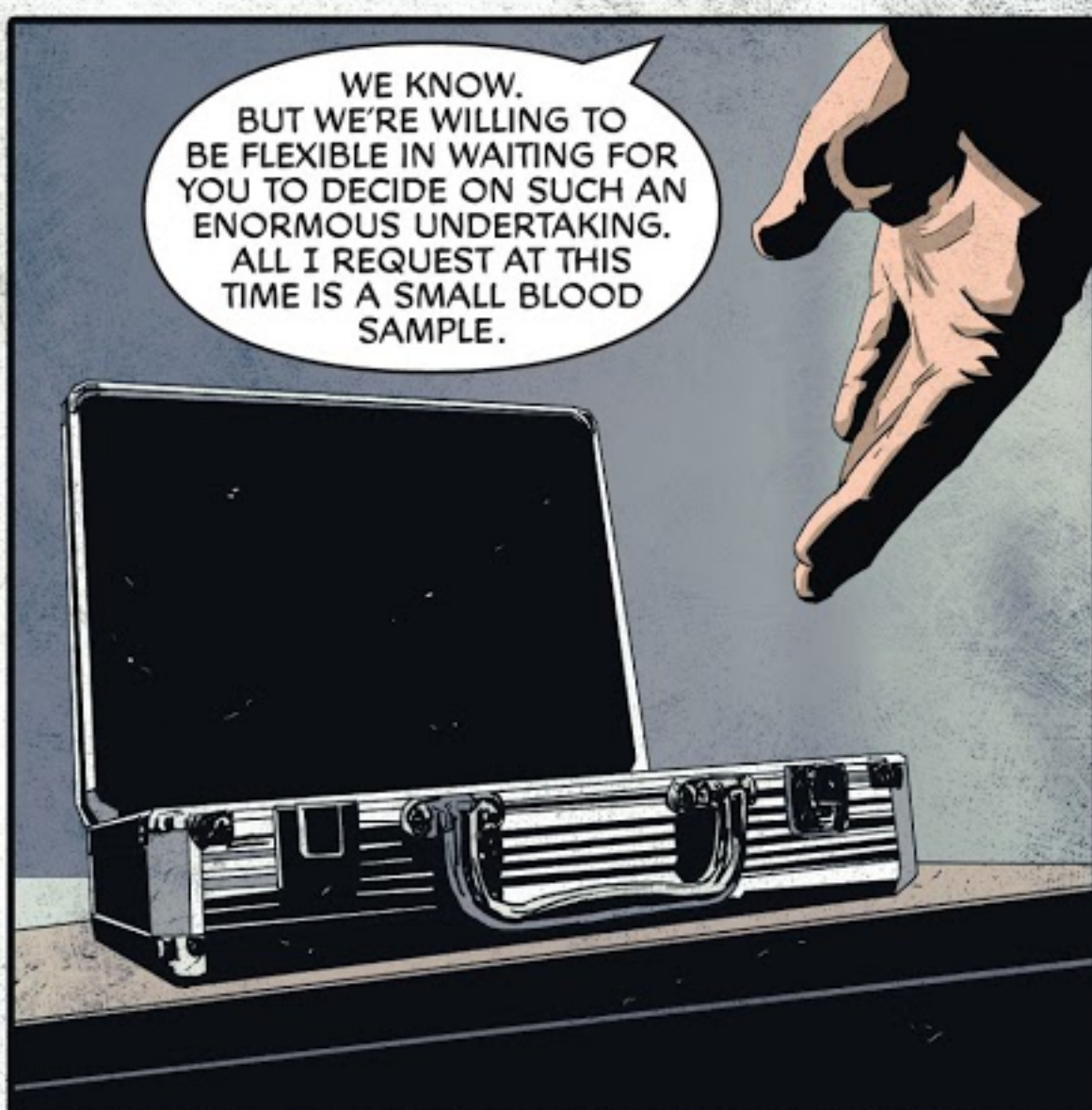
BUT THE ONE OVERRIDING POSSIBILITY IS THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME *EVER*... WE COULD HAVE *GLOBAL HARMONY* ON ALL RELIGIOUS FRONTS. CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT THAT WOULD MEAN? NO MORE WARS BASED ON OUR INHERENT BELIEFS. NO MORE DIVISIONS AMONG THE POPULACE. THINK ABOUT THE MILLIONS OF CHILDREN WHO MIGHT NOT HAVE TO GROW UP AS VICTIMS OF RAVAGED BATTLEFIELDS.

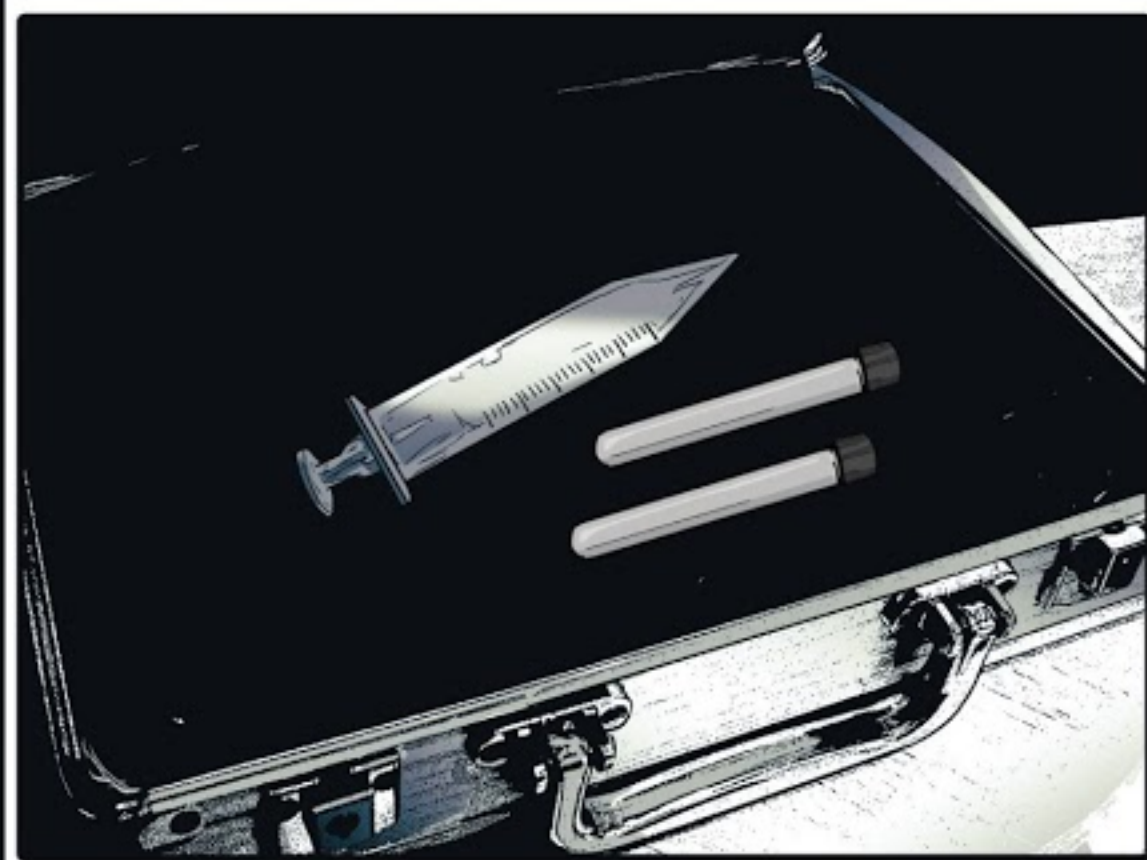
I'M NOT SAYING IT'LL HAPPEN OVERNIGHT. BUT WITH *GOD'S MERCY* WE CAN BEGIN GOING DOWN A PEACEFUL PATH LIKE NOTHING WE'VE SEEN IN OUR LIFETIME.



WE KNOW. BUT WE'RE WILLING TO BE FLEXIBLE IN WAITING FOR YOU TO DECIDE ON SUCH AN ENORMOUS UNDERTAKING. ALL I REQUEST AT THIS TIME IS A SMALL BLOOD SAMPLE.

ALL THAT IS VERY FLATTERING BUT... I CAN'T REMEMBER IF I'M EVEN RELIGIOUS. OR EVER WENT TO CHURCH.





A BLOOD
SAMPLE..?

I'M...
NOT WILLING
TO DO
THAT.



IT'S MERELY
A HISTORIC TRADITION.
OUR CHURCH TAKES A
SAMPLE FROM ALL OF US
WHO MIGHT PRESIDE OVER
THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN
THE BIBLE.

IT'S A RATHER
SIMPLE WAY FOR
THE CHURCH TO
MAKE SURE WE ARE
ANOINTING GOOD
MEN, AND NOT
DEMONS.



PLEASE,
JIM. THIS IS
WHAT WE'VE
BOTH BEEN
TALKING
ABOUT.

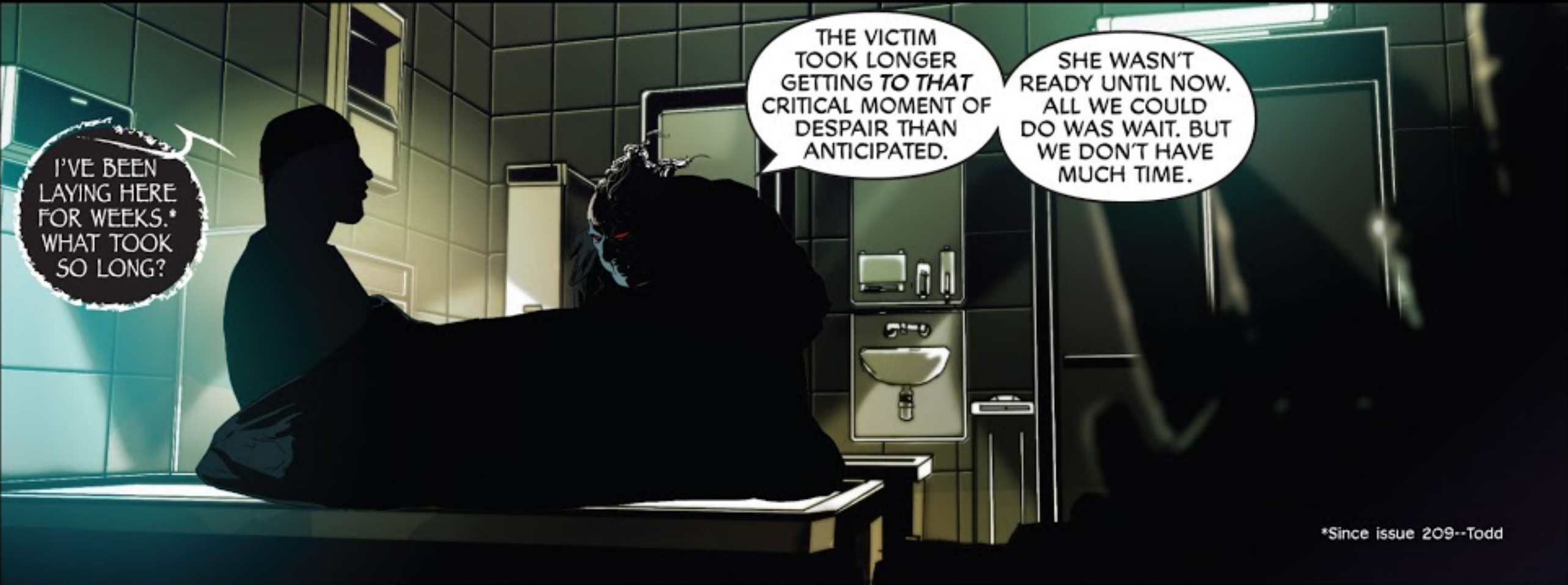
THIS IS
YOUR CHANCE.
AND YOU'VE
GIVEN BLOOD TO
YOUR DOCTORS
DOZENS OF
TIMES.



I'M SORRY.
I CAN'T DO
IT.



THAT'S
UNFORTUNATE
FOR ALL OF US,
MR. DOWNING.



I'VE BEEN LAYING HERE FOR WEEKS.* WHAT TOOK SO LONG?

THE VICTIM TOOK LONGER GETTING TO *THAT* CRITICAL MOMENT OF DESPAIR THAN ANTICIPATED.

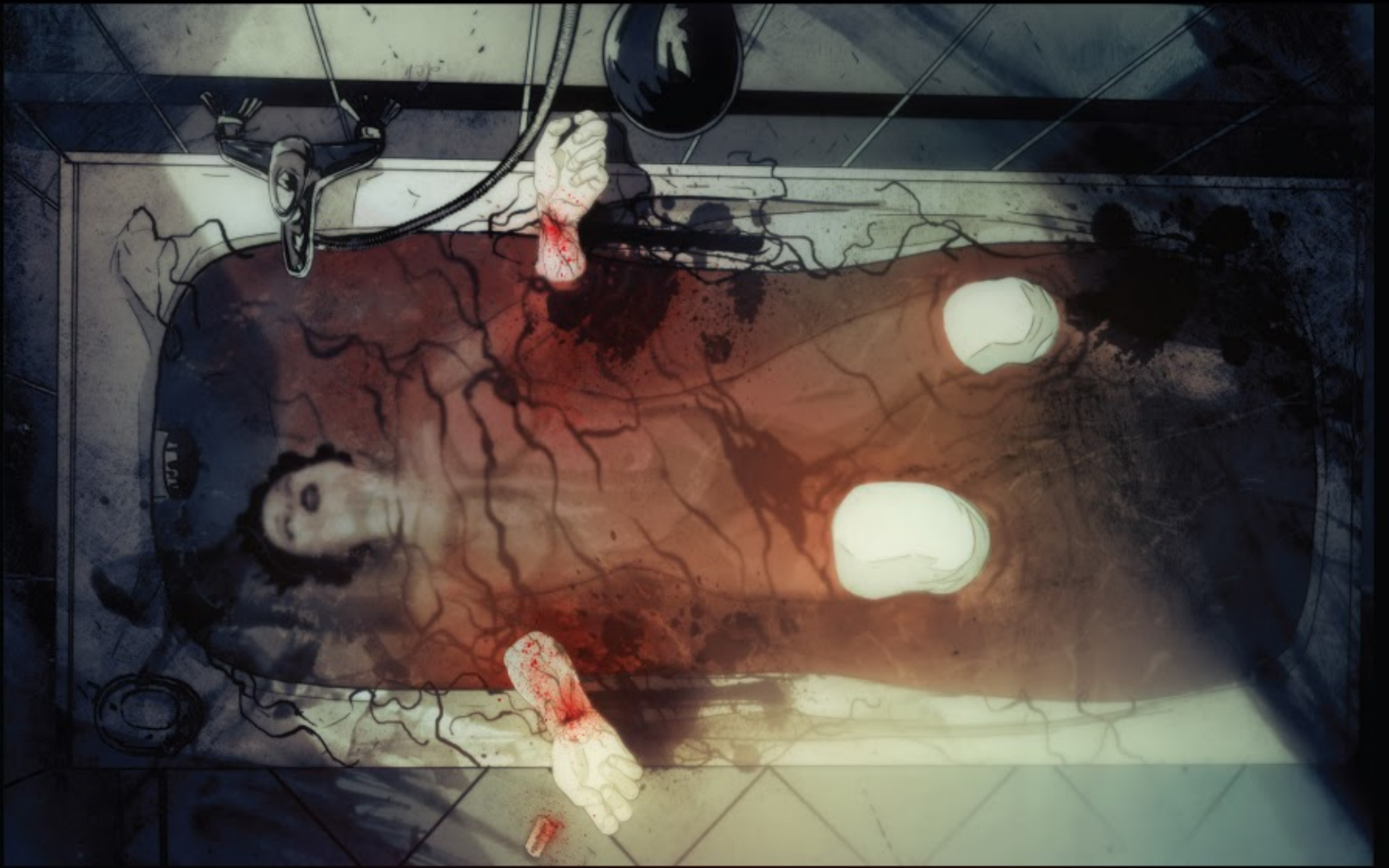
SHE WASN'T READY UNTIL NOW. ALL WE COULD DO WAS WAIT. BUT WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.

*Since issue 209--Todd



BECAUSE THE PERSON YOU NEED TO INHABIT-- HAS TO BE JUST RIGHT!

AND THIS ONE I'VE FOUND IS PERFECT!







COLD. BUT
THAT'S TO BE
EXPECTED.

SO...
WHO WAS
SHE?



SOMEONE
CLOSE TO OUR
NEW SPAWN.



THAT'S WHY
I TARGETED HER.
BECAUSE I NEEDED
SOMEONE ON THE 'INSIDE.'
SOMEONE THAT COULD BE
AROUND SPAWN ON A DAILY
BASIS-- LISTENING AND
REPORTING EVERY-
THING HE SAYS
AND DOES.



AS MUCH AS
I NEED TO BUILD MY
OWN ARMY FOR THE
COMING WAR-- I CAN'T
DO THAT PROPERLY WITH-
OUT KNOWING WHAT MY
ENEMY IS THINKING.
THAT'S WHERE YOU
COME IN.



GAIN
THEIR
TRUST.

ALL OF THEM.
DOWNING'S. YOUR
BOYFRIEND'S. SARA'S--
AND WHOEVER ELSE
YOU NEED TO.



YOU DO
THAT... AND WE
EVENTUALLY
WIN.



SO YOU
WANT TO
KNOW WHO
SHE WAS?
THAT'S EASY...
SHE'S ANOTHER
LOST SOUL
LIKE ALL THE
REST.



BUT
THEY CAN'T
EVER KNOW
THAT.

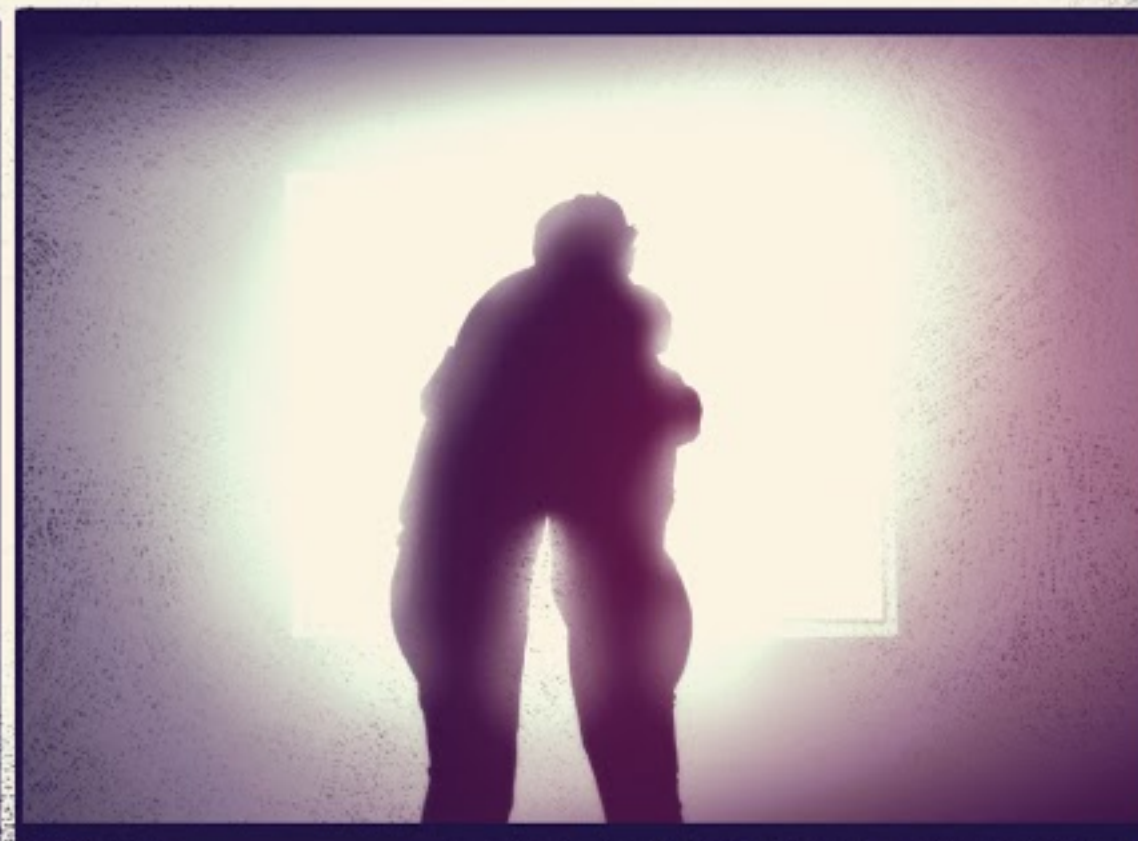


ISN'T
THAT RIGHT,
SUSAN?



THAT'S
RIGHT...
MASTER.







< DO THEY BELIEVE THERE'S ANY CHANCE HE'LL CHANGE HIS MIND?* >

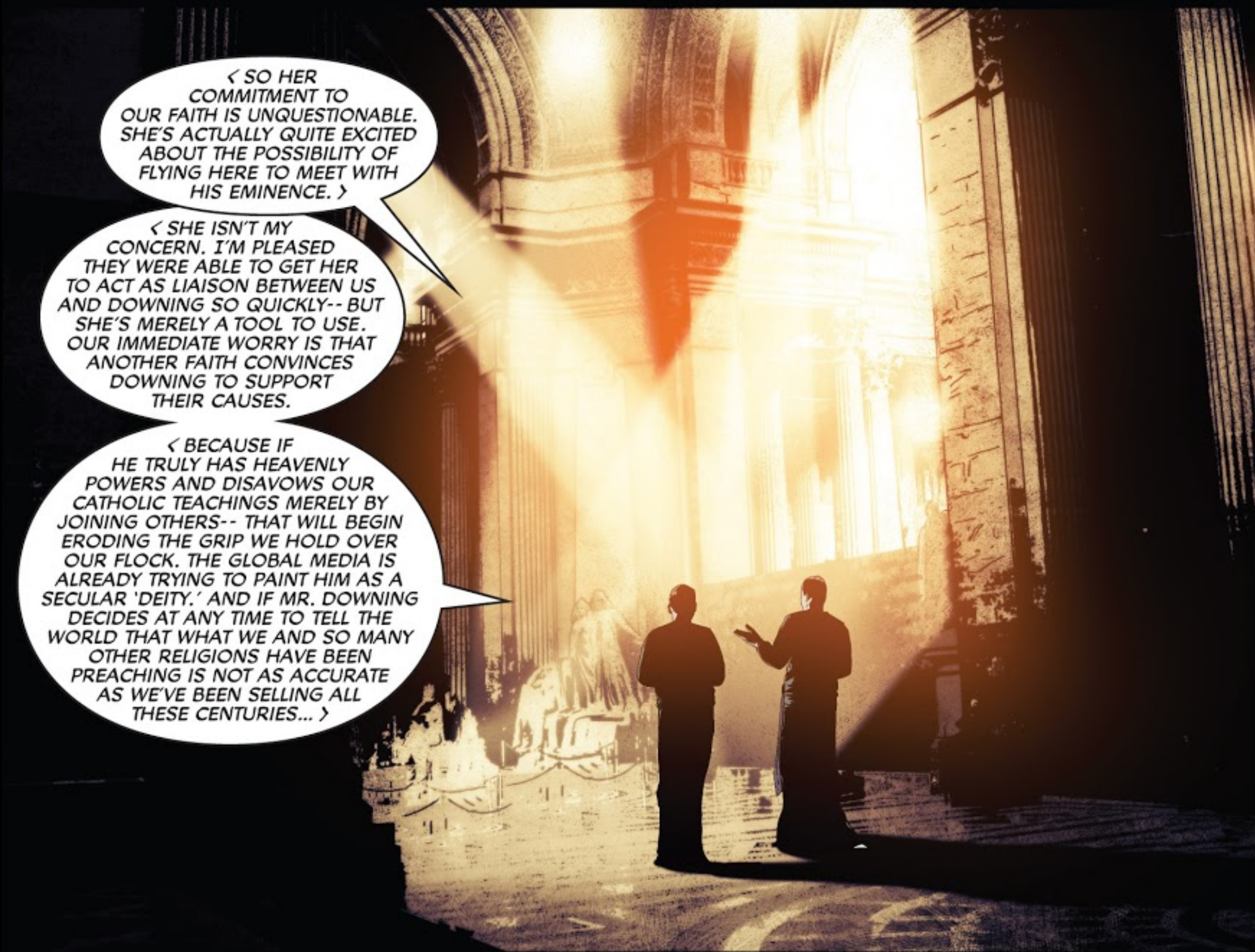
*Translated from Italian--Todd



< IT DOESN'T APPEAR SO. NOT FOR THE TIME BEING. >

< THOUGH FATHER HALLWELL AND HIS CLERGY SAY THEY'VE MADE TREMENDOUS STRIDES WITH MR. DOWNING'S FORMER NURSE-- >

< --THE MEDIA HAS BEEN REPORTING SHE HAS A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. >



< SO HER COMMITMENT TO OUR FAITH IS UNQUESTIONABLE. SHE'S ACTUALLY QUITE EXCITED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF FLYING HERE TO MEET WITH HIS EMINENCE. >

< SHE ISN'T MY CONCERN. I'M PLEASED THEY WERE ABLE TO GET HER TO ACT AS LIAISON BETWEEN US AND DOWNING SO QUICKLY-- BUT SHE'S MERELY A TOOL TO USE. OUR IMMEDIATE WORRY IS THAT ANOTHER FAITH CONVINCES DOWNING TO SUPPORT THEIR CAUSES. >

< BECAUSE IF HE TRULY HAS HEAVENLY POWERS AND DISAVOWS OUR CATHOLIC TEACHINGS MERELY BY JOINING OTHERS-- THAT WILL BEGIN ERODING THE GRIP WE HOLD OVER OUR FLOCK. THE GLOBAL MEDIA IS ALREADY TRYING TO PAINT HIM AS A SECULAR 'DEITY.' AND IF MR. DOWNING DECIDES AT ANY TIME TO TELL THE WORLD THAT WHAT WE AND SO MANY OTHER RELIGIONS HAVE BEEN PREACHING IS NOT AS ACCURATE AS WE'VE BEEN SELLING ALL THESE CENTURIES... >



< THAT COULD POSSIBLY BE CRIPPLING TO OUR BRAND. >



< BUT THE CHURCH HAS RUN INTO THESE KINDS OF THREATS BEFORE. SO AS MUCH AS MR. DOWNING IS REBUFFING OUR ADVANCES... >



<...WE HAVE
WAYS TO GET
AROUND HIS
RESISTANCE!>



TO BE CONTINUED

image

231ST

COLLECTOR'S ITEM ISSUE!

SPAWN[®]

THE LEGEND
OF THE
HELL-BORN HERO

DIGITAL
EDITION

231
MAY

APPROVED
BY THE
IMAGE
COMICS



AUTHORITY



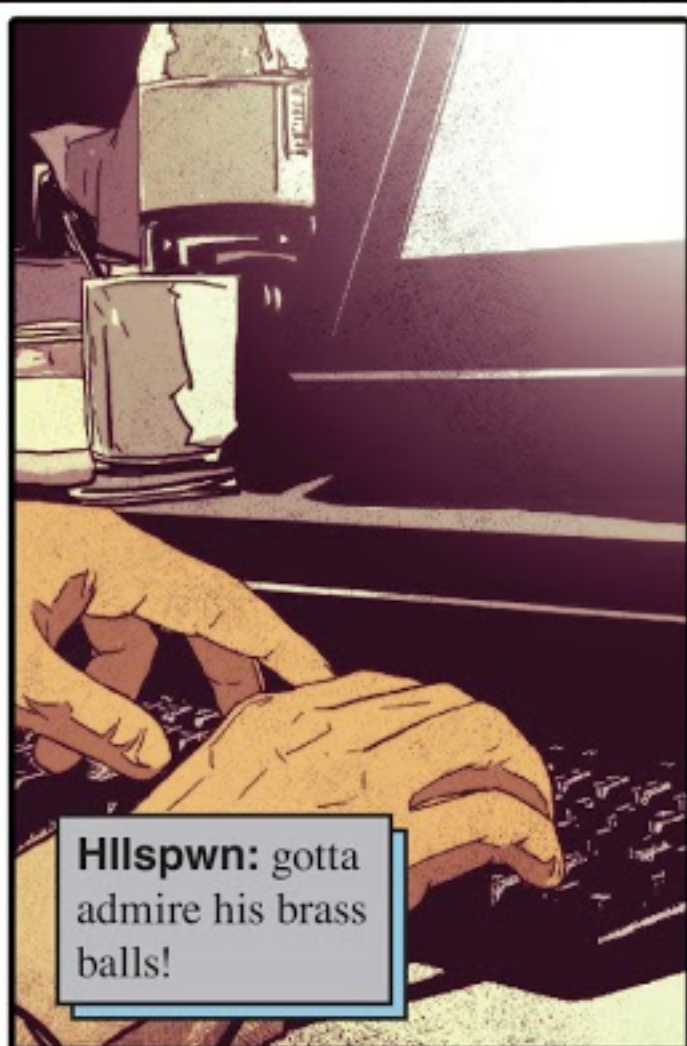
"CELEBRITY SAVIOR"

PART THREE

McFARLANE

Hllspwn: Who was the greatest? That's EASY! It was Genghis Khan leader of the Mongolian armies and conqueror of most of Eurasia. That S.O.B. would annihilate entire villages because they just happen to be on his way to another battle.

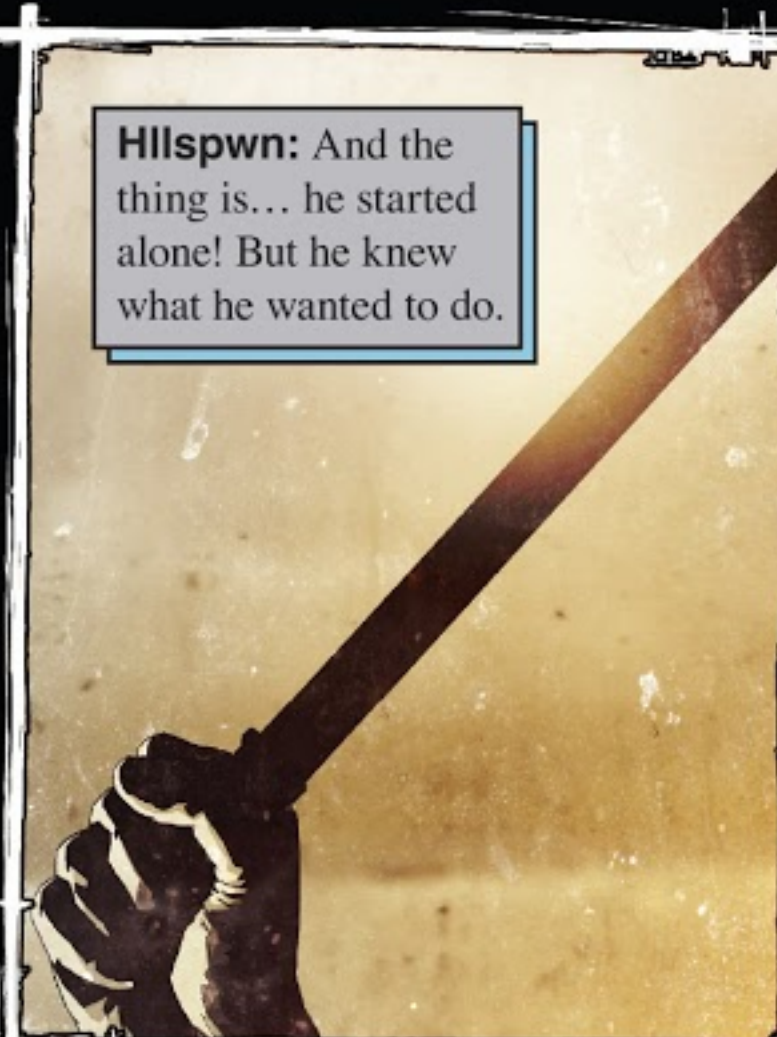
Hllspwn: And the dude always made his victims believe he was only there bcuz of THEIR sins! Even busted into a church and told the monks that they weren't 'faithful' enough so God had sent him to kill them all.



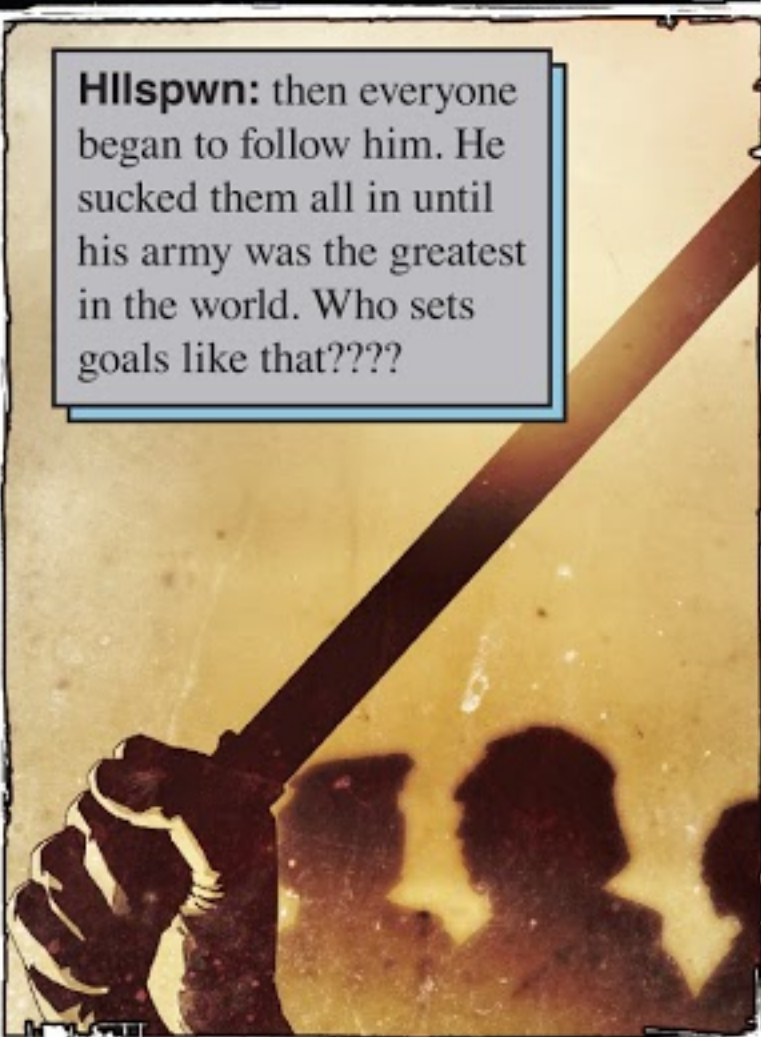
Hllspwn: gotta admire his brass balls!



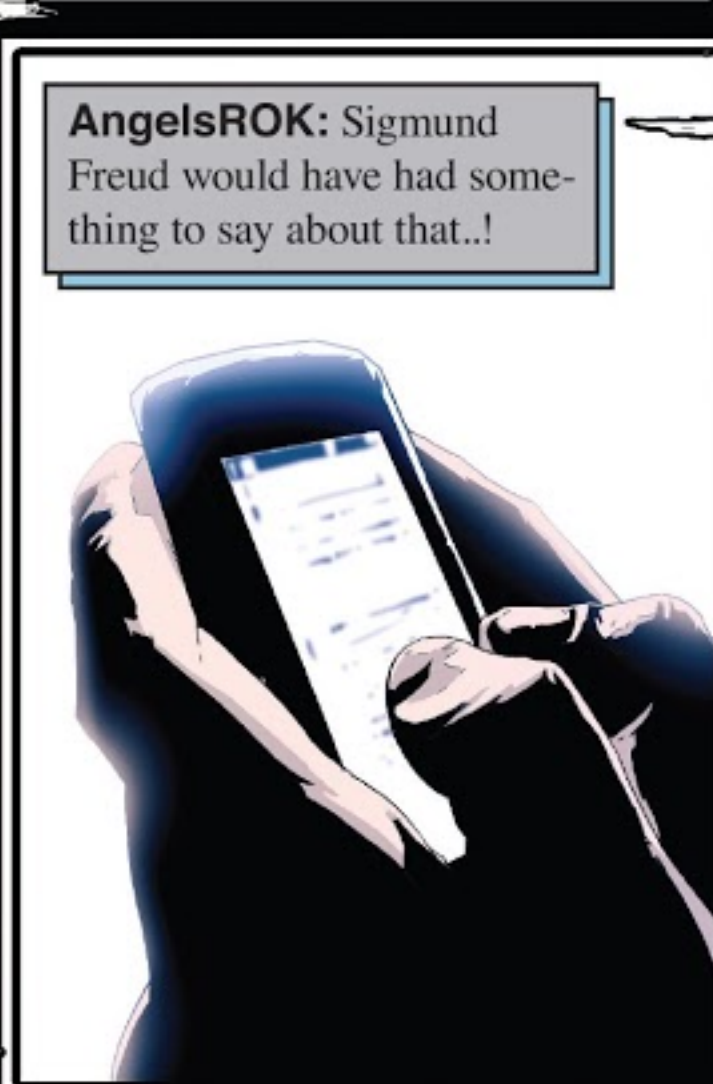
Redeemer69:
That's AWESOME!



Hllspwn: And the thing is... he started alone! But he knew what he wanted to do.



Hllspwn: then everyone began to follow him. He sucked them all in until his army was the greatest in the world. Who sets goals like that????



AngelsROK: Sigmund Freud would have had something to say about that..!



Hllspwn: Whatever. Dude was a badass. Pure and Simple.

Hllspwn: That's why he's the GREATEST Hellspawn of all time! People think he just appeared out of nowhere but Hell spits him back to earth! And instead of remaining a loner like most Spawns do. He took the bull by the horns!

Hllspwn: I think he wanted to be God and Satan mixed together.



Hllspwn: And he let nothing... and I mean NOTHING stand in his way. The 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse were all pussies compared to how KHAN looked like on his horse.

Hllspwn: But the best thing is everyone who wasn't on his side was afraid. That's how his army grew so huge. You either joined him or he murdered you... though he told them they all had 'free will' to decide themselves. LOL

AngelsROK: If the guy was a supernatural ghost... then why did he die?

Hllspwn: R U Stupid?! He didn't die, he transferred his soul into his grandson. Ever heard of KUBLAI KHAN?? He became emperor after Genghis supposedly died. Which he didn't.

Hllspwn: Genghis Khan just took over the body of his grandson. But it was still him. That's why the world feared both of them beuz it was the SAME badass the whole time!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Hllspwn: And the one thing both could do was rally men together for his cause. Many times thousands of Mongolians gathered 2 cheer and pay homage 2 their leader. Do you know how much power you need to control millions at one time? Or to get people to think...



Hllspwn:
...you're
some kind of
GOD!!

AngelsROK:
Really...?

AngelsROK: Guess it depends on your perspective. Some might actually call him the ANTI-CHRIST!





"IN OTHER NEWS, PROTESTORS HAVE GATHERED OUTSIDE THE CONSTRUCTION ZONE SOON TO BE THE HEADQUARTERS FOR JIM DOWNING'S RECENTLY ANNOUNCED CHARITY FOUNDATION. WITH HELP FROM INDUSTRIAL BILLIONAIRE MATTHEW RAMUS AND HIS CORPORATIONS-- SOURCES SAY THE NEW SITE WILL HOUSE BOTH FUNDRAISING EFFORTS AS WELL AS SPACE DEVOTED TO HOUSING DOZENS OF POTENTIAL PATIENTS IN NEED OF MR. DOWNING'S INCREDIBLE POWERS.



"A COMPLETE MEDICAL STAFF WILL BE ON DUTY TO MAKE SURE ANY SELECTED PATIENT RECEIVES THE UTMOST CARE AND ATTENTION. GIVEN THE HUGE MYSTERY BEHIND HIS POWER'S ORIGIN, MR. DOWNING HAS PLEDGED TO MAKE SURE HIS SELECTION OF DOCTORS AND NURSES PROVIDE CONSTANT FOLLOW UP TO THOSE THEY'LL TREAT.



" BUT NONE OF IT, APPARENTLY, WILL COME WITHOUT A FAIR SHARE OF CONTROVERSY. AND AS HE BECOMES BETTER KNOWN AROUND THE WORLD, THE AMOUNT OF OPPOSITION AIMED IN HIS DIRECTION APPEARS TO BE BUILDING. LATER IN OUR PROGRAM WE'LL HAVE A PANEL OF EXPERTS DISCUSSING WHY HE MIGHT ACTUALLY BECOME A VERY POLARIZING FIGURE. FOR NOW THOUGH..."



...CITY OFFICIALS MARVEL AT THE SWIFTNESS WITH WHICH THE JOHN DOE OUTREACH FOUNDATION IS BEING BUILT. COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE EXPERTS SAY THERE'S NEVER BEEN A STRUCTURE GO FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION AT SUCH A RECORD PACE. THIS SPEAKS VOLUMES FOR MR. RAMUS' SUPPORT WITHIN THIS ORGANIZATION. HE HAS BROUGHT IN OVER A DOZEN OUTSIDE BUILDING CREWS FROM ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY TO MAKE SURE THIS VENTURE ISN'T DELAYED ONE DAY MORE THAN NEEDED.

ALL THIS HEIGHTENED INTEREST BY RAMUS AND OTHERS BEGAN WHEN JIM DOWNING APPEARED TO HAVE RESUSCITATED AN INJURED PHOTOGRAPHER MOMENTS AFTER HE WAS STRUCK BY A CITY TRANSIT BUS. WE TRIED TO GET A COMMENT FROM THAT PHOTOGRAPHER, A MR. GREGORY TOWNSEND, BUT AS OF LATE LAST NIGHT NO ONE HAS SEEN NOR HEARD FROM HIM. POLICE HAVE BEGUN LOOKING INTO THIS BECAUSE OF THE FAMILY'S CONCERNS.



SOME CHURCH LEADERS HAVE WEIGHED IN TO GIVE THEIR OPINION AS TO THE VALIDITY OF MR. DOWNING'S PURPORTED HEALING POWERS. SOME ARE SAYING IT'S INDEED POSSIBLE HIS POWERS ARE A DIRECT EXTENSION OF GOD'S PRESENCE. THEY'VE SAID THAT THE MANIFESTATION OF HEAVENLY POWERS HAVE BEEN A PART OF OUR RECORDED HISTORY SINCE THE TIME OF JESUS. THEIR BELIEF IS THAT GOD HAS CONSTANTLY TRIED TO REMIND US OF HIS EXISTENCE HERE ON EARTH BY PASSING ON CERTAIN TRAITS, FROM TIME TO TIME, TO A SELECT FEW.

VARIOUS SPIRITUAL LEADERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS HAVE EXPRESSED MORE CONCERN. THEY DO NOT BELIEVE IT SERVES ANYONE WELL TO THINK THAT A SECULAR MAN CAN BE THE CONDUIT FOR SUCH A DRAMATIC MESSAGE FROM GOD.



HE'S THE DEVIL CHILD!!!

I'M CALLING IT LIKE I SEE IT! AND IT'S *SHAMEFUL* THAT DOWNING HASN'T DIRECTLY COME OUT AND DENOUNCED ALL THESE '*MESSIAH*' RUMORS ALREADY! HE COULD PUT TO REST MOST OF THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING HIMSELF BY ADMITTING THAT, THOUGH HE DOES HAVE SOME INEXPLICABLE POWER TO BE SURE, THEY ARE NOT OF A DIVINE NATURE. *THAT'S IT!!* THAT'S ALL HE HAS TO DO TO GET ALL THE PAPARAZZI AND PRESS OFF HIS BACK. **BUT NOOOOOOOOOO.....**

HE'S REVELING IN THE GLORY OF BEING TODAY'S MEDIA DARLING. I KNOW HIS TYPE. THEY ARE NARCISSISTIC EGO-MANIACS THAT BASK IN THE ATTENTION OF THE PUBLIC, THINKING THEY'RE SOMEHOW SUPERIOR TO US MERE MORTALS. HOUDINI. HITLER. JFK. ALL OF THEM WANTED THE DAILY ADORATION OF US ALL!

WELL, NOT FROM *ME*, FOLKS...THE NAME'S TUCKER, **NOT** SUCKER!!



WE APPRECIATE YOU LETTING US DROP BY. AND THOUGH WE ONLY HAVE A FEW MINUTES, I THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT TO WISH YOU LUCK IN PERSON.



GOD BLESS YOU, JIM.

THANKS.



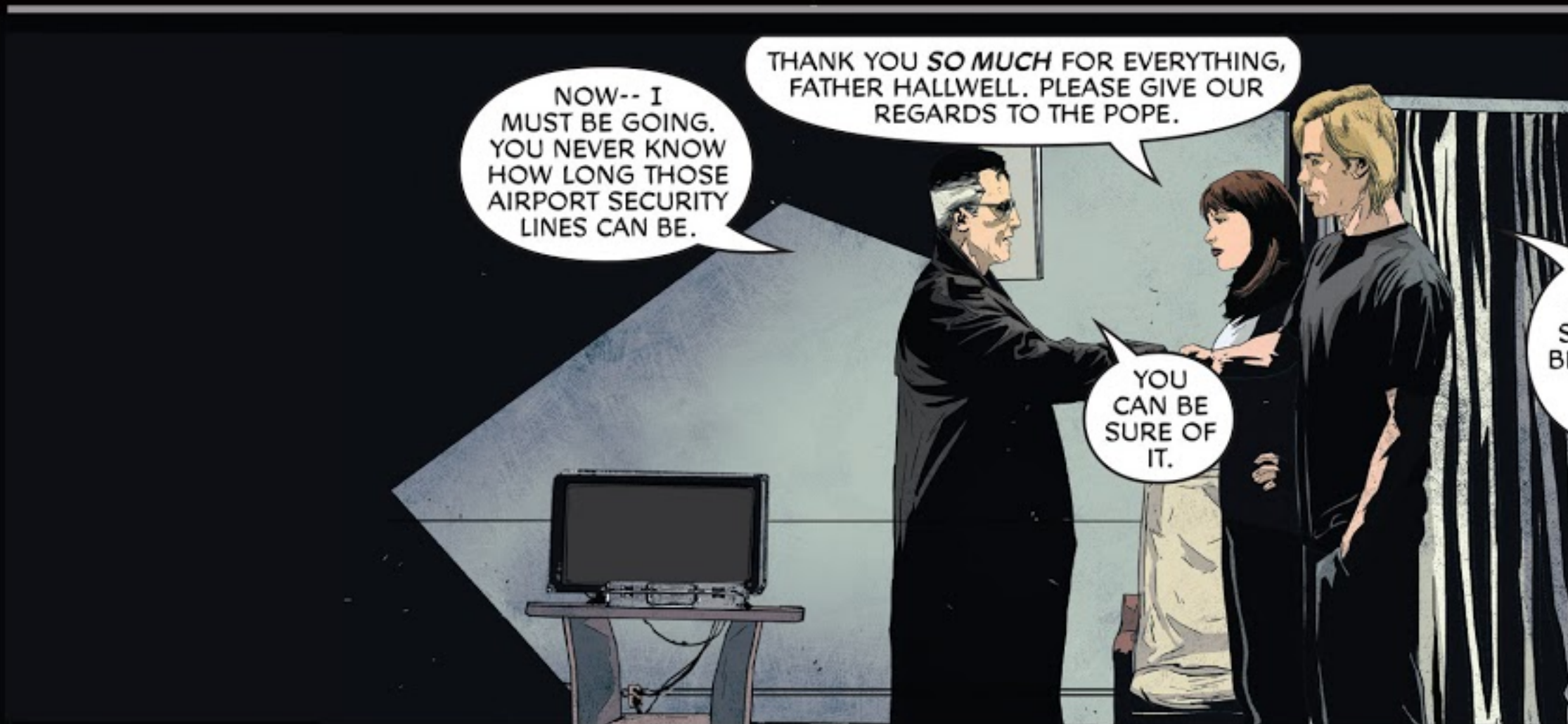
YOU AND SARA WERE QUITE GENEROUS LISTENING TO MY TALKS THE PAST COUPLE DAYS. I'M SURE YOU HAD BETTER THINGS TO DO.

IT WAS IMPORTANT TO SARA WE GOT TOGETHER-- I APPRECIATE YOU TAKING AN INTEREST IN THE BOTH OF US, FATHER.

THE PLEASURE WAS MINE. I WANTED TO PASS ON MY HOPES THAT YOU ACCOMPLISH EVERYTHING YOU'VE SET OUT TO DO. THOSE WILLING TO HELP OTHERS LESS FORTUNATE THAN THEMSELVES IS SOMETHING WE GREATLY ADMIRE. SO, BEFORE WE CATCH OUR PLANE BACK HOME TODAY, I WANTED TO LEAVE YOU WITH THIS ONE LAST THOUGHT...

WATCH OUT FOR **EVIL**. IT HIDES IN MANY FORMS AND CONSPIRES TO ENVELOPE THE CHARACTER OF MANY GOOD MEN. BECAUSE OF THAT HISTORY IT WILL COME FOR YOU IN TIME. AND IT WILL TRY TO TEAR YOU DOWN. DON'T LET IT. DON'T LET THE LIGHT GET CLOAKED IN DARKNESS.

OUR PRAYERS WILL BE WITH YOU.



NOW-- I MUST BE GOING. YOU NEVER KNOW HOW LONG THOSE AIRPORT SECURITY LINES CAN BE.

THANK YOU *SO MUCH* FOR EVERYTHING, FATHER HALLWELL. PLEASE GIVE OUR REGARDS TO THE POPE.

YOU CAN BE SURE OF IT.

TRAVEL SAFE. I'M SURE WE'LL BE IN TOUCH IN THE FUTURE.

Elsewhere in the city.

IT'S TIME, LORD.

THE CLEANSING SHALL BEGIN SOON.



Ding

HOW'D
THINGS
GO UP
THERE?

AS EXPECTED.
DOWNING'S
NOT REALLY BUYING
WHAT WE'RE
PEDDLING.

I'LL SEE
WHAT THEY
WANT US TO
DO NEXT.

THIS IS
HALLWELL.
MADE ONE
LAST CONTACT
WITH DOWNING
BUT HE WON'T
BE TRAVELLING
BACK
WITH US.

YES... WE'VE
HEARD HOW HE'S
DEALING WITH PUBLIC
SENTIMENT REGARDING
HIS NEW FOUNDATION.
SO YOUR FAILURE
ISN'T MUCH OF A
SURPRISE.

FORTUNATELY,
WE'RE BEING TOLD
IT'S MOSTLY THE
YOUTH WHO'RE GIVING
HIS EXISTENCE THE MOST
CREDENCE. BUT OTHERS
WILL JOIN THEIR BELIEFS
AND A TIPPING POINT
WILL SOON BE UPON
EVERY RELIGION.

AND SO IN
ORDER TO PROTECT
OUR INTERESTS-- WE'LL
FORMALLY HANDLE THIS
SITUATION FROM HERE ON
OUT. AS YOU MIGHT IMAGINE,
WITH THE TRANSITION TO
OUR NEW POPE... THINGS
MUST BE DONE AS
DISCREETLY FROM
NOW ON.

I GET IT-- YOU WERE JUST TRYING TO DO SARA A FAVOR, BUT I'M TELLING YOU, IF ANYONE THINKS YOU'VE PICKED A SPECIFIC DENOMINATION IT'LL LIMIT YOUR OUTREACH WITH YOUR CHARITY. I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE-- PEOPLE GET WEIRD IF THEY THINK THEY'RE GIVING MONEY TO SOMEONE WHO THINKS DIFFERENT THAN THEMSELVES.

I'M YOUR MANAGER! YOU SHOULD HAVE CALLED ME SO I COULD RUN INTERFERENCE FOR YOU. THAT'S MY JOB.

CONSERVATIVE MEDIA FINDS OUT YOU'VE BEEN MEETING WITH THE VATICAN THEY'LL SEE THAT AS AN ENDORSEMENT. AND THE MOMENT YOU TRY BACKING AWAY FROM THAT PERCEPTION THEY'LL **ATTACK!** BOTH IN PRINT AND THE AIRWAVES. THAT'S WHY YOU NEED TO THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS.



NEXT TIME I'D APPRECIATE YOU GIVING ME A CALL.

JIM DIDN'T CALL YOU, MARC, BECAUSE WE WEREN'T TRYING TO 'STRIKE A DEAL'-- OR LAND A BIG TV INTERVIEW. WE WERE SIMPLY LISTENING. THE VATICAN'S CURIOUS ABOUT JIM AND HIS POWERS. THEY AREN'T CONCERNED ABOUT HIS CELEBRITY STATUS. THEY WERE TRYING TO HELP-- SEE IF THEY COULD ASSIST IN SOME OF JIM'S GOALS.

I'M SURE THEY WERE. BUT WHOEVER GETS JIM TO SIGN ON TO THEIR POINT OF VIEW SCORES A HUGE P.R. MOVE.

WHAT?! YOU THINK THE CATHOLIC CHURCH VIEWS JIM AS A HIGH PROFILE CLIENT GRAB? HE'S NOT A KARDASHIAN!-- WHO'VE GOT NO SKILLS OTHER THAN BEING BORN PRETTY! JIM HEALS PEOPLE! AND NONE OF US... INCLUDING JIM... HAS ANY IDEA HOW HE DOES IT. THAT'S WHY WE TALKED TO THEM! BECAUSE THEY'VE DEALT WITH MATTERS LIKE THIS BEFORE, IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD!

SARA... I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO OFFEND YOU. YOU'RE RIGHT, EVERYONE'S CURIOUS TRYING TO FIGURE THIS THING OUT. ALL I'M SAYING IS WE NEED TO **BE CAREFUL**. SO AS MUCH AS YOU THINK YOU KNOW THE CHURCH, I KNOW THE MEDIA. IT'S WHAT I DID FOR A LIVING.

SUSAN AND I WANT THE SAME THINGS YOU DO.



THEN WE ALL NEED TO BE REALISTIC. THE FOUR OF US HERE CAN'T POSSIBLY CONTROL WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW. SOME ARE GOING TO EMBRACE WHAT WE DO AND OTHERS-- NO MATTER WHAT-- WILL BE AGAINST US. IT'S JUST HUMAN NATURE. SO I WANT TO FOCUS ON THE PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES WILLING TO HELP US OUT.

AGREED. BUT THE MORE NEUTRAL YOU REMAIN ON CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS THE BETTER.

I'LL DO WHATEVER JIM WANTS. BUT YOU'RE BEING NAÏVE THINKING YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CONTROL ALL THIS IN THE LONG RUN. EVEN WITH THE GREAT STAFF YOU'VE PUT TOGETHER.





I DON'T
THINK
I CAN.

BUT I'LL BE
DAMNED IF I'M GOING
TO LET OTHERS DICTATE
OUR MESSAGE!



IN THE NEWS
BUSINESS OUR
JOB WAS TO GET 'IN
FRONT' OF THE STORY
WE WERE WORKING
ON. THIS IS NO
DIFFERENT!

YOU WANT YOUR FOUNDATION TO FLOURISH? WE NEED TO LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF NEGATIVE PRESS IT GETS. LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING OVER AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE! A FEW FANATICS ALREADY HAVE CAUGHT THE MEDIA'S ATTENTION. WITH 24 HOUR NEWS CYCLES THE OUTLETS NEED TO FILL AIRTIME. *WITH ANYTHING!* SO WE DON'T NEED TO GIVE THEM ANY EXCUSES TO TURN ON US.

BUT THEY WILL.

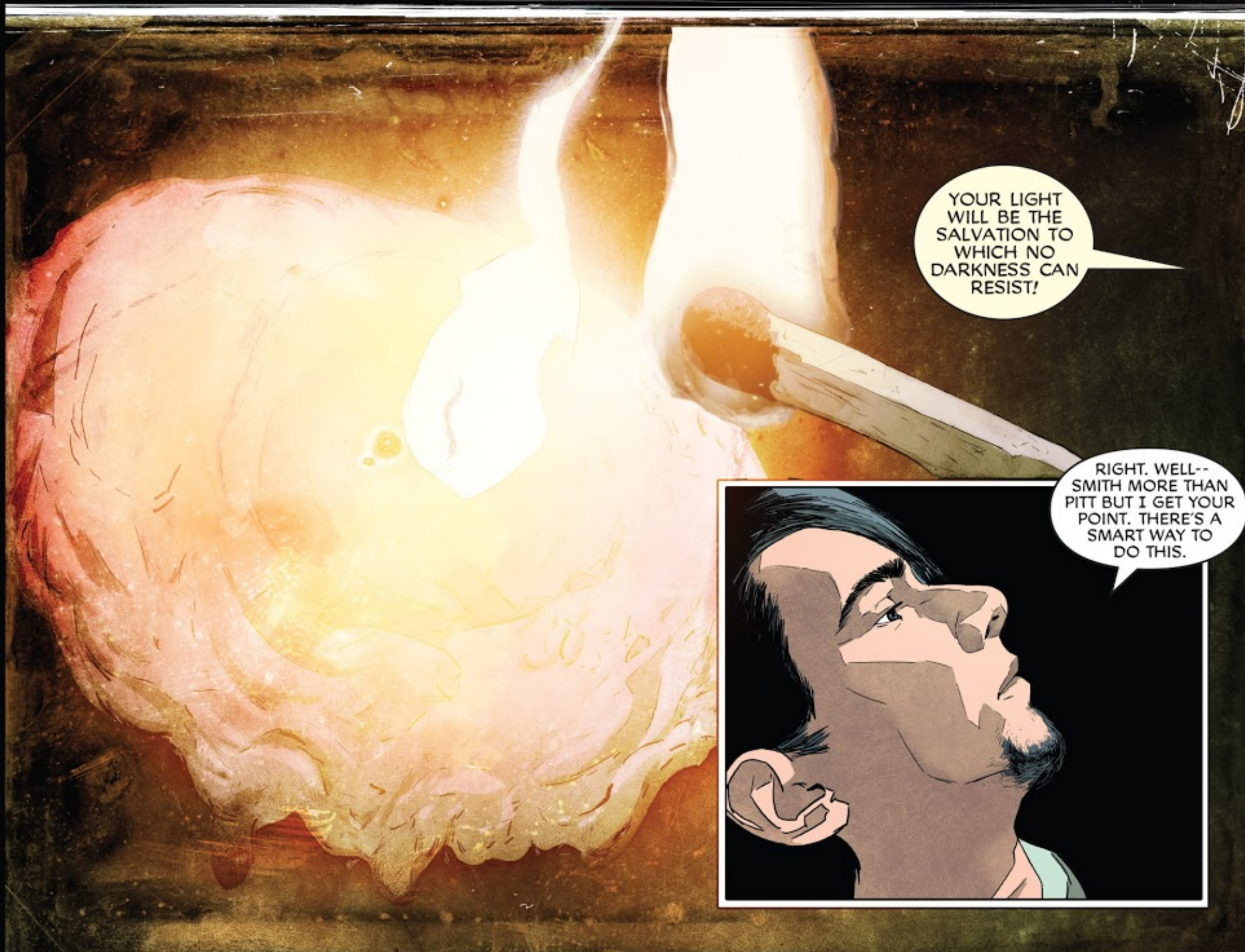
OF COURSE
THEY WILL! IT'S WHAT
THEY DO.

ARE THERE
EXAMPLES OF OTHERS
WHO'VE BEEN ABLE TO LIVE
IN THE SPOTLIGHT AND
NOT GET TORN DOWN
EVENTUALLY?

SURE. BRAD
PITT. WILL SMITH. A FEW
OTHERS. SO IT'S DOABLE... BUT
THEY DIDN'T *HAVE POWERS*
LIKE YOU!

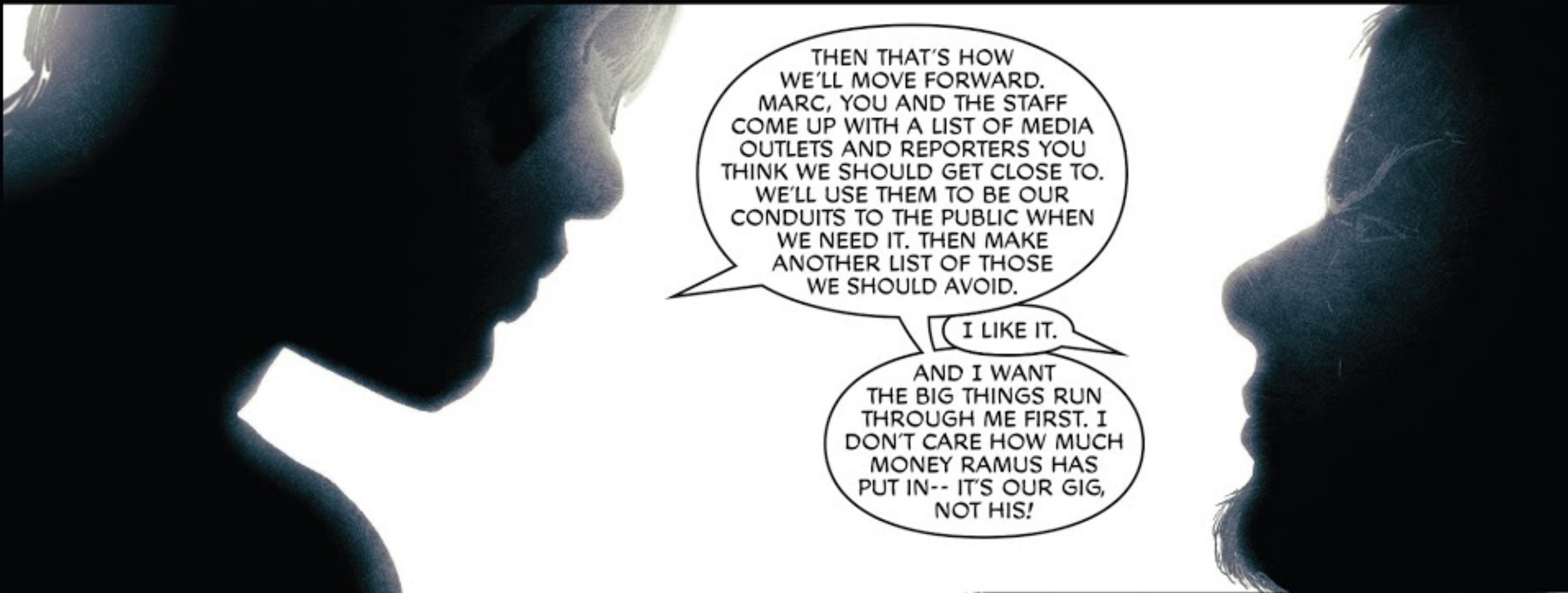


BUT MY UNDER-
STANDING IS THEY
DIDN'T GET TOO POLITICAL
OR RELIGIOUS ON ANY-
ONE. THEY JUST DID WHAT
THEY WERE GOOD AT AND
DIDN'T INSERT THEMSELVES
INTO GLOBAL MATTERS.
THEY KNEW IT MIGHT
HURT THEIR BOX
OFFICE APPEAL.



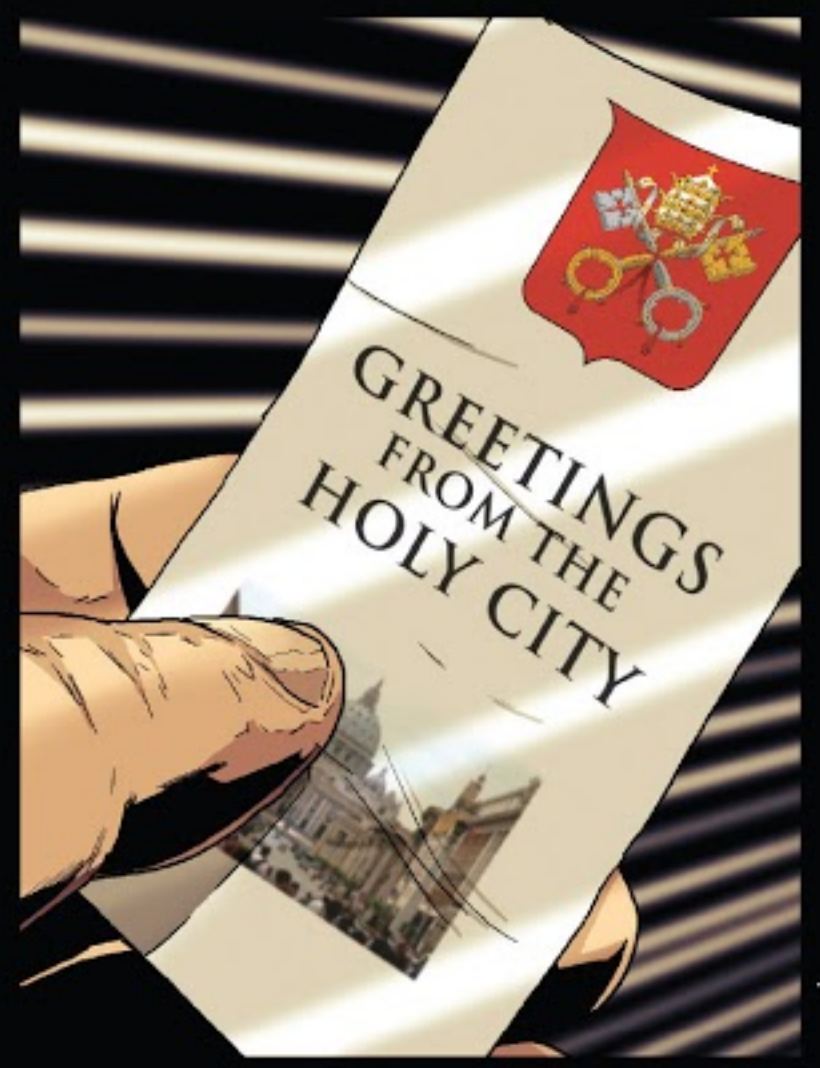
YOUR LIGHT
WILL BE THE
SALVATION TO
WHICH NO
DARKNESS CAN
RESIST!

RIGHT. WELL--
SMITH MORE THAN
PITT BUT I GET YOUR
POINT. THERE'S A
SMART WAY TO
DO THIS.





THEY ALL
WANT ME TO BE
THEIR GOD.
THEIR SAINT.

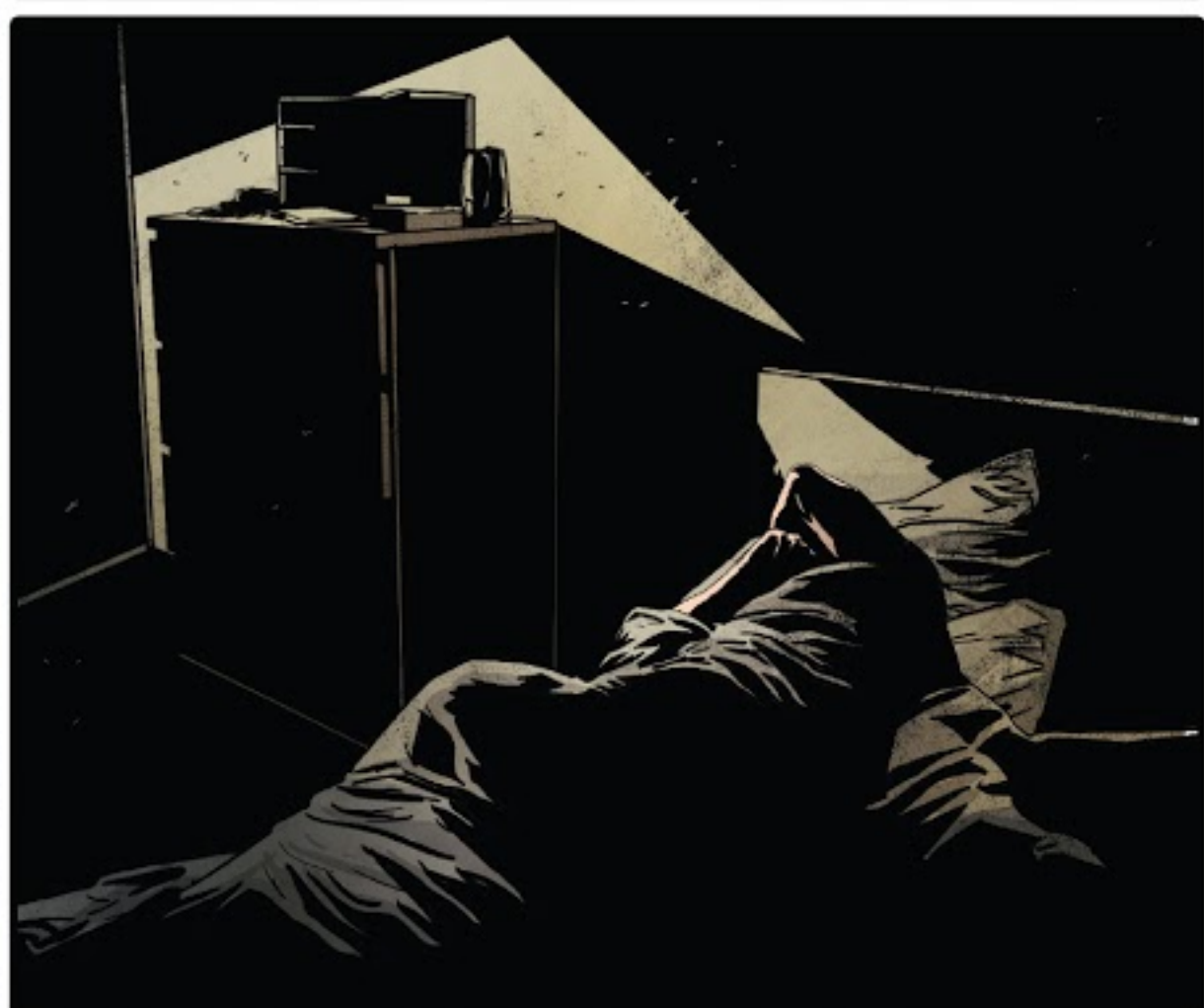
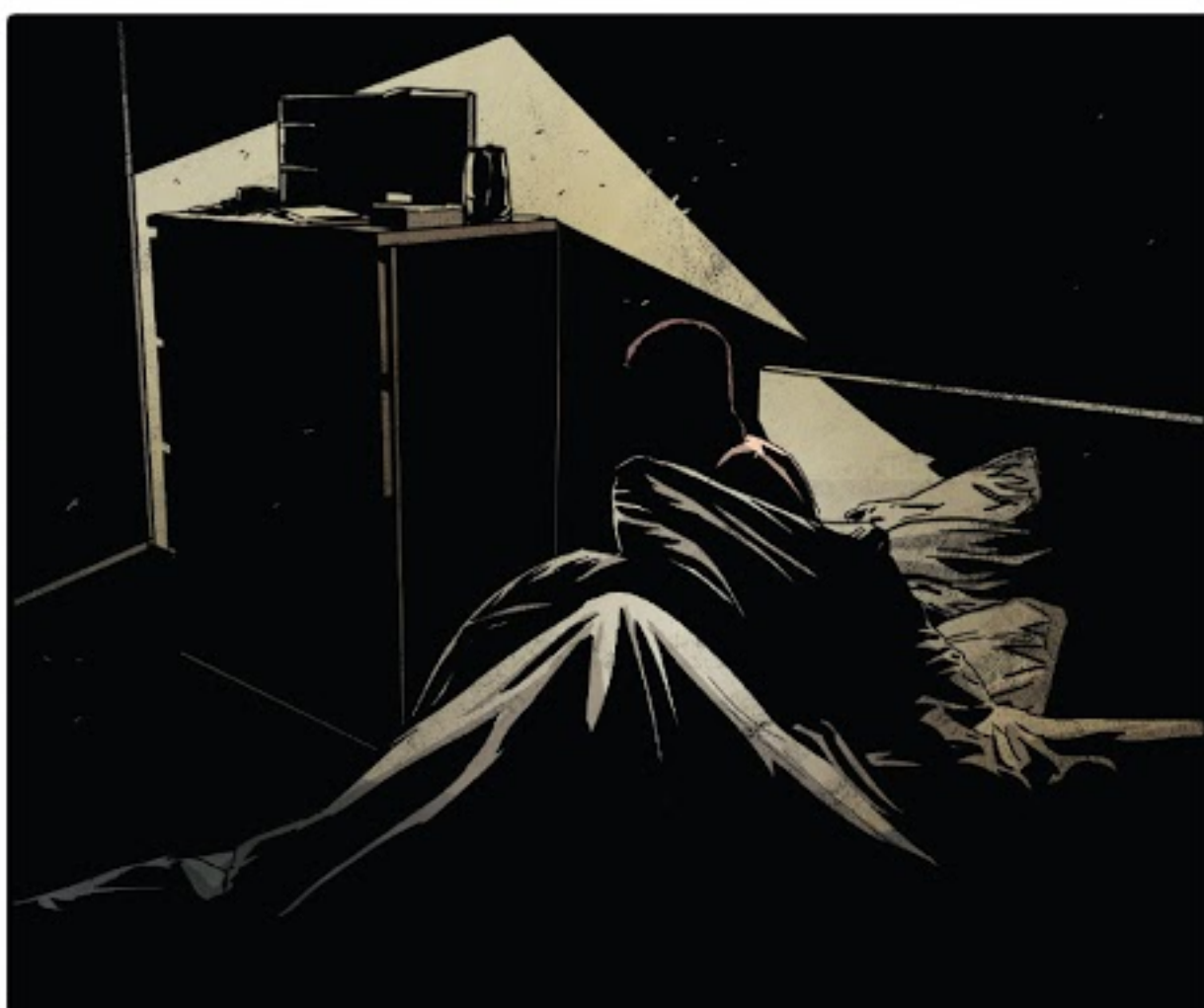
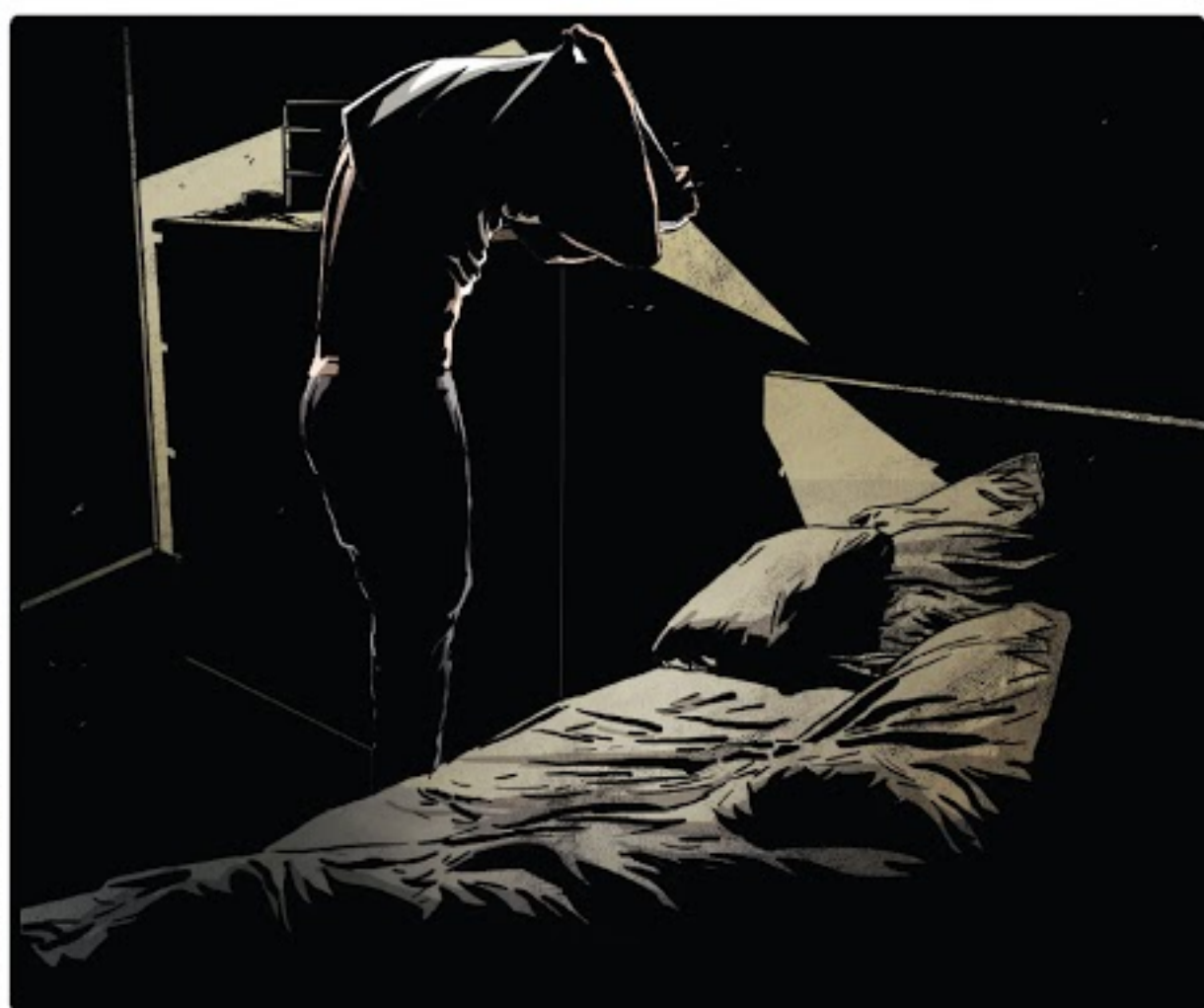


I KNOW MY
TASK--THE BURDEN
YOU HAVE PLACED UPON
ME--AND I WELCOME IT
WITH AN OPEN HEART AND
FAITHFUL SERVITUDE.



IF THEY
ONLY
KNEW.





"I NEED YOU--
AND YOUR
NIGHTMARES."



IS THIS
WHAT YOU
WANT,
CARLOS?



TO END
UP LIKE YOUR
FRIEND, HERE?
I DON'T THINK
SO.

WHY GIVE
AWAY YOUR LIFE
TO PROTECT
THE IDENTITY OF
SOMEONE
ELSE?



BECAUSE
IF I DON'T
GET A NAME,
THEN WHEN I
AM DONE WITH
YOU I'M GOING
AFTER YOUR
FAMILY.



YOUR WIFE,
WE'LL SLIT HER
WIDE OPEN-- AFTER WE
RAPE HER FOR A DAY OR
TWO. AND YOUR CHILDREN...
EVEN THE DEVIL HIMSELF
WOULDN'T WANT TO HEAR
HOW I'LL TAKE THEM
APART. NOW...

GIVE ME A
NAME!





YOU'RE
WRONG...

THE DEVIL
DOES
WANT TO
HEAR YOU!

AAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH

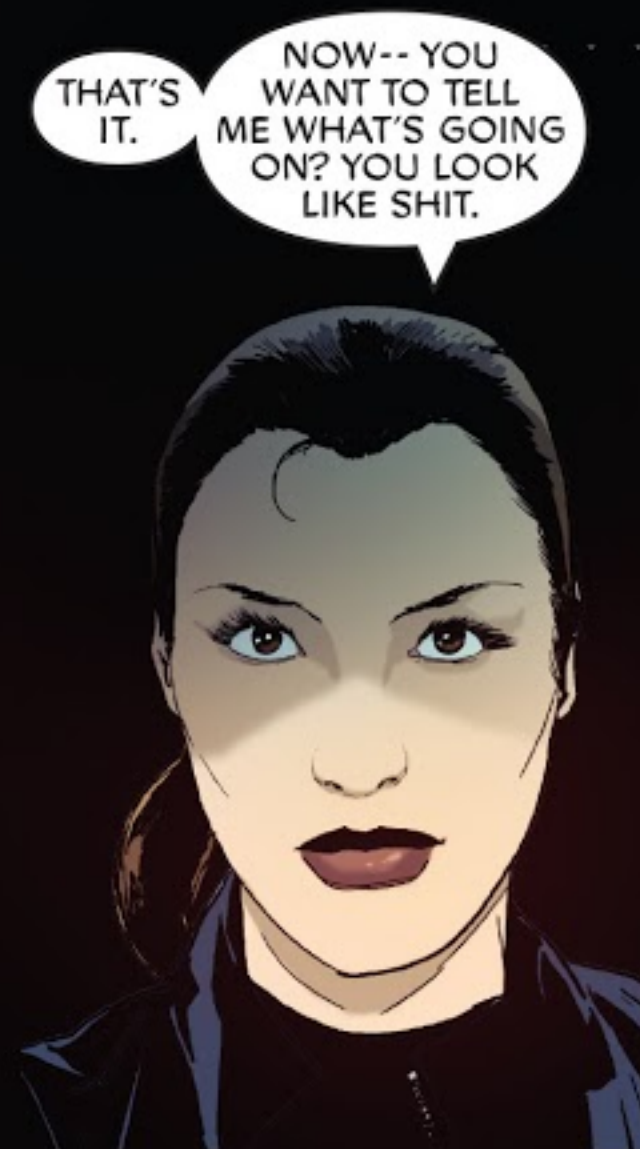


AN ENEMY HAS PUT
HIS EVIL INSIDE THE BODY
OF ONE OF YOUR FAITHFUL.
TRYING TO CONVERT THEM WITH
HIS DARKNESS. BUT I HEAR YOUR
VOICE AND KNOW YOU WANT
NO MAN TO BE TEMPTED WITH
SUCH BLASPHEMY!!

SO I SHALL FIND
THE EVIL--EXTRACT IT
FROM THEIR BODIES--
AND REPLACE IT WITH
YOUR HEAVENLY
TOUCH.

THEN...
THEN YOU'LL
UNDERSTAND THE
FULL EXTENT OF
MY DEVOTION
TO YOU!

Langley, Virginia.





I KNOW.

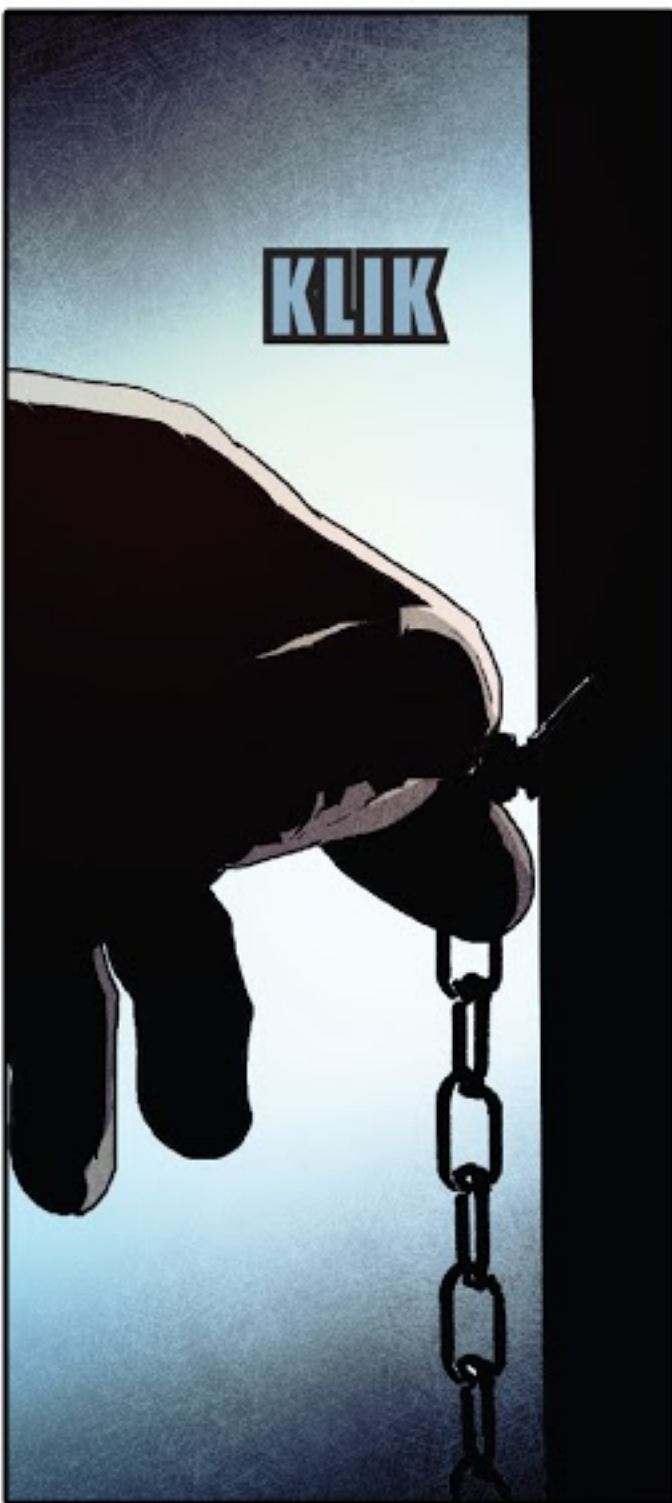
I JUST NEED TO FIGURE THIS ONE OUT ON MY OWN.

LOOK, I RESPECT YOU NEED YOUR SPACE... BUT I ALSO THINK YOU NEED A FRIEND. LET ME IN AND I PROMISE I'LL ONLY STAY TWENTY MINUTES. THAT'S IT.

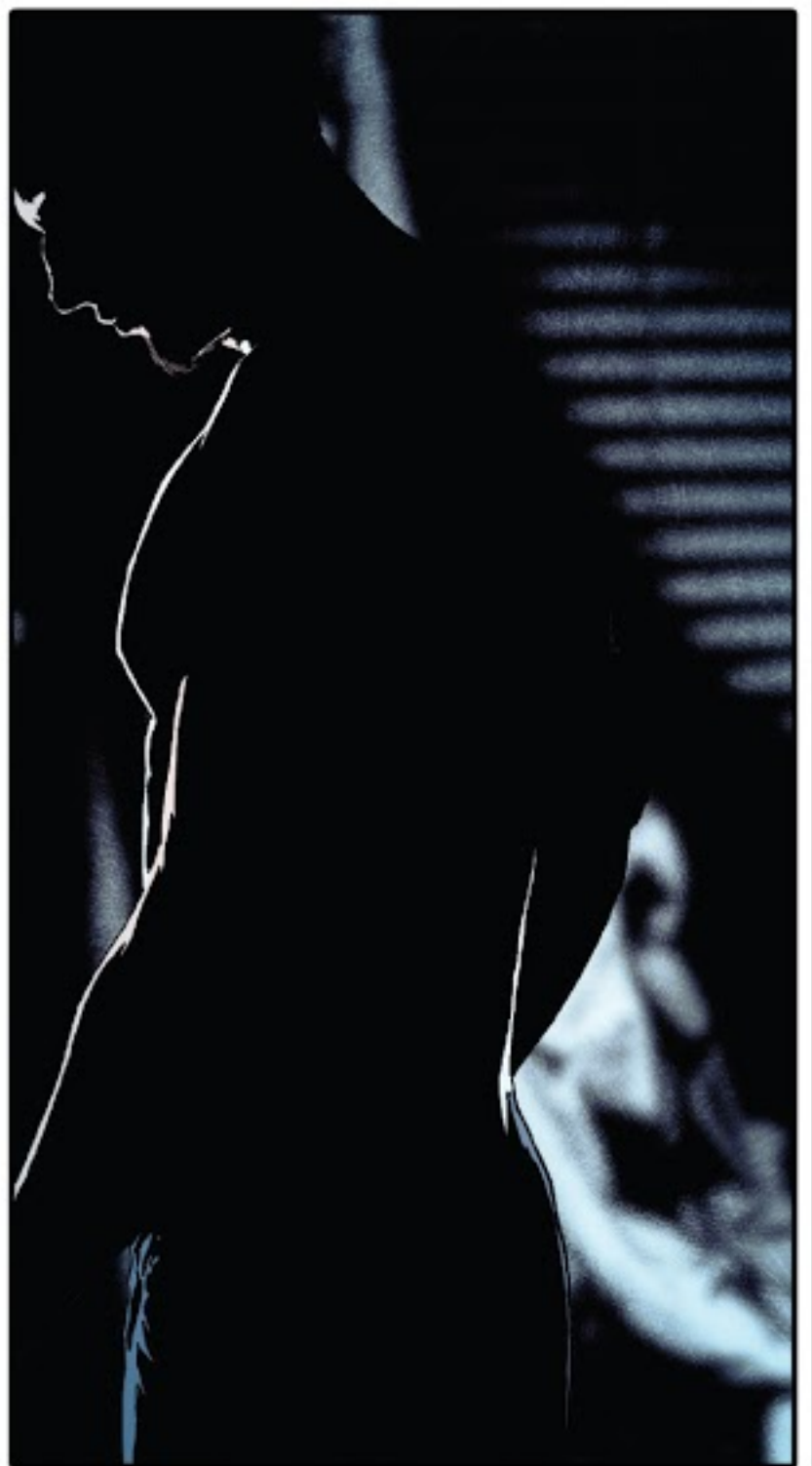
NO.

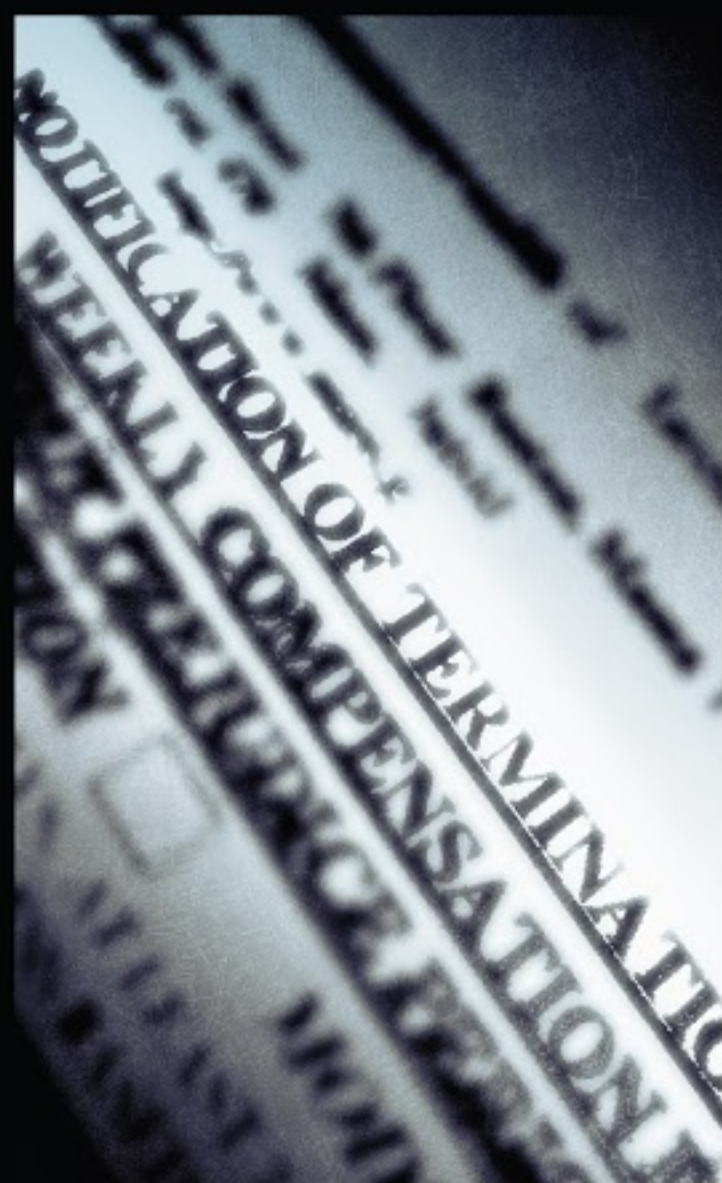


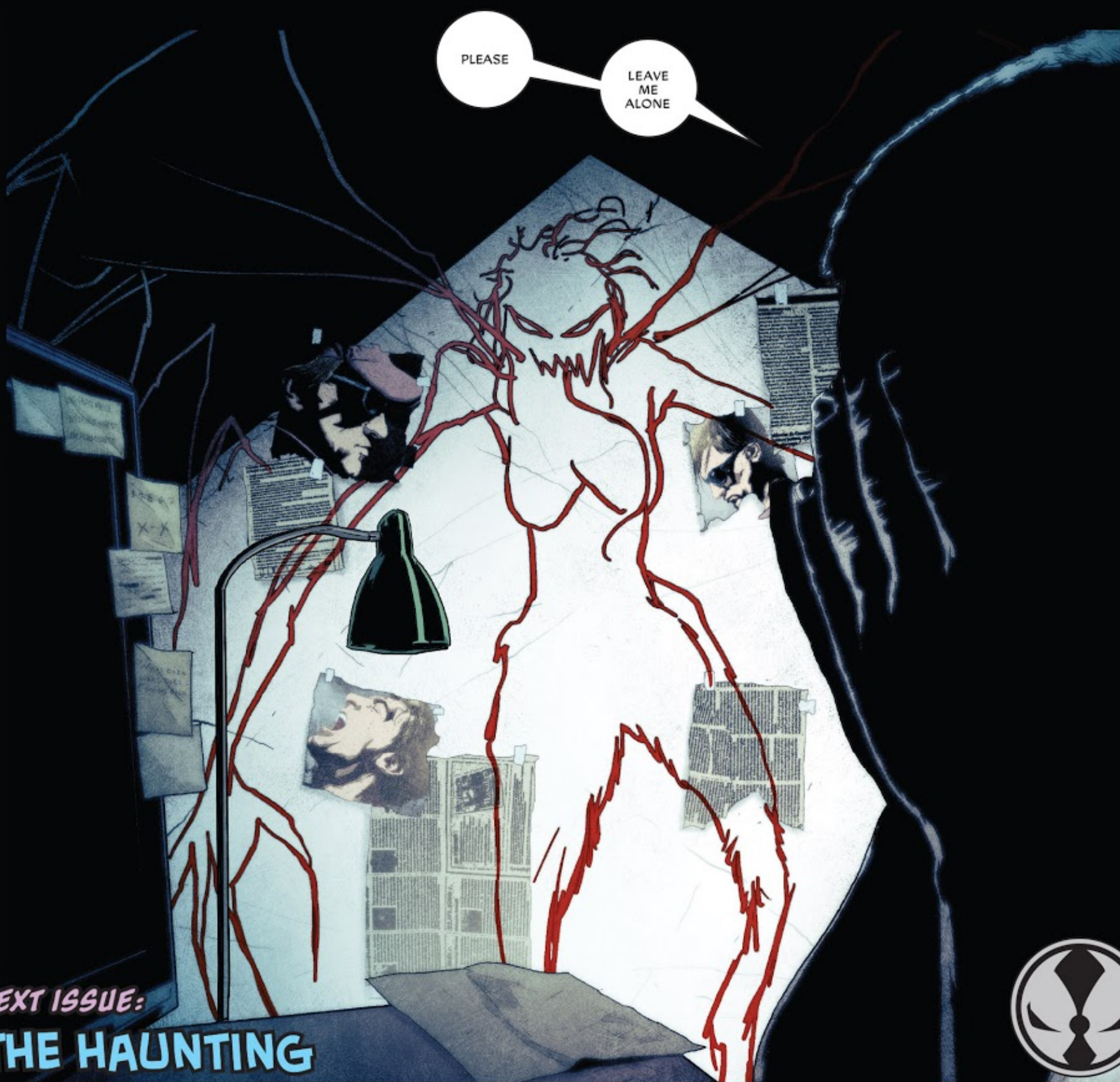
I'M SORRY. NOW PLEASE GO.



KLIK







SPAWN[®]

image

232

DIGITAL
EDITION



McFARLANE
INSPIRED
BY GREG V
FCO

New York City.



The Alleyways.
12:32 A.M.



I KNOW
YOU'RE
HERE. SO
STOP HIDING.
IT'S ME...

SUSAN.

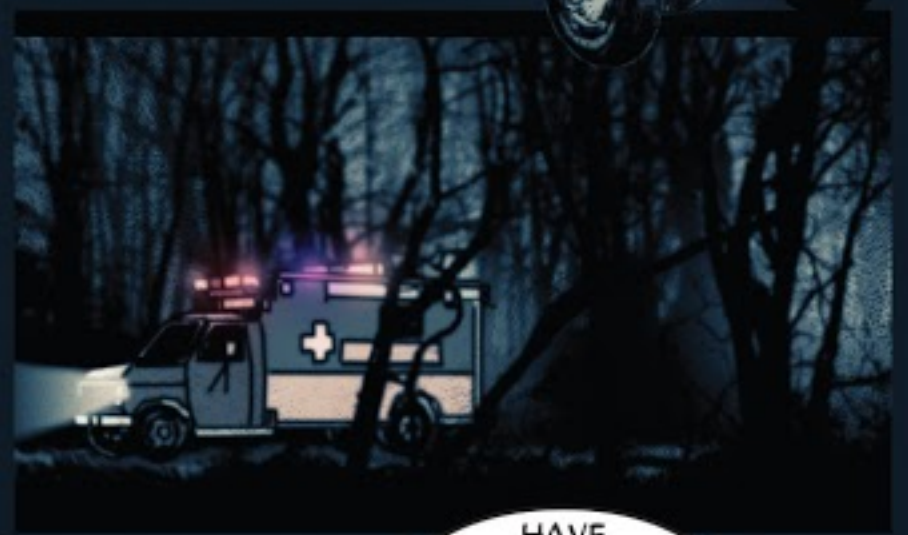
THAT'S NICE.
I LIKE THAT YOU'RE
ADAPTING SO QUICKLY
TO YOUR NEW BODY.
I KNEW IT'D BE A
GOOD MATCH.

THOUGH I
WOULDN'T GET TOO USED
TO IT. YOU KNOW HOW FAST
THE HUMAN STRUCTURES BURN
OUT. NOW... WHAT DO I OWE THIS
PLEASURE? SINCE YOU SEEM TO
BE SO-- *CLOSE TO HIM* THESE
DAYS-- I'M HOPING IT'S SOME-
THING USEFUL ABOUT
DOWNING.

IT IS. AND
WAIT 'TIL YOU
HEAR WHAT
I'VE GOT.







PUT
HER
IN ROOM
28.



HAVE
YOU SEEN THE
TWO HUGE SCARS
ON HER BACK?
SOMEONE DID SOME-
THING HORRIBLE TO
HER. THE POOR
THING.



The Next Morning.



I'M DOCTOR KERR. DOCTOR JOSEPH... KERR. THOUGH MY FRIENDS CALL ME JOE.

GET IT?

JOE KERR.

YOU SEE... I LIKE TO CLOWN AROUND. BUT YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?

THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT YOU A LITTLE REMINDER FROM OUR LAST ENCOUNTER.*





"...BY THAT *PANICKED* LOOK IN YOUR EYES-- RIGHT BEFORE I TORE *THEM OFF!* SORRY ABOUT THOSE SCARS IT LEFT.



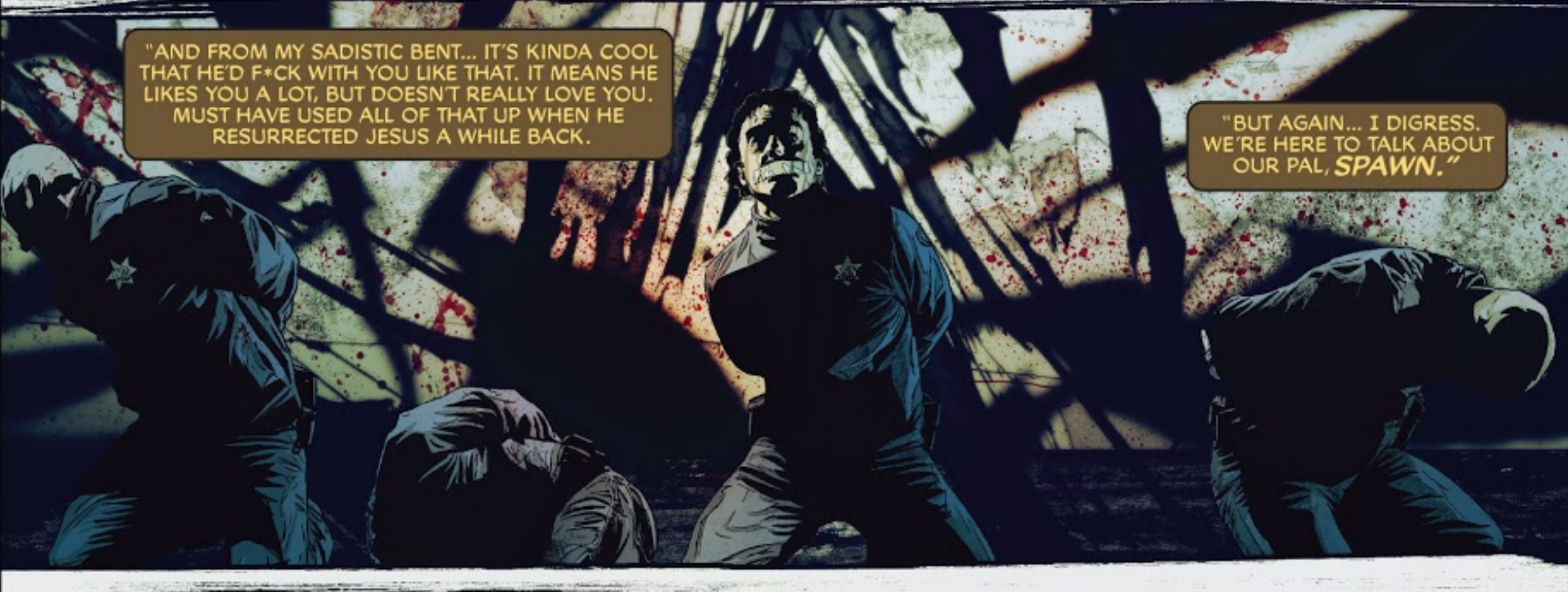
"BUT... I'M NOT HERE TO REMINISCE. I NEED YOU TO TALK. AND I DON'T PLAN ON LEAVING UNTIL YOU DO.

"PROBLEM IS, THE MOMENT I RELIEVED YOU OF YOUR WINGS-- WAS THE SAME MOMENT YOU STARTED GOING INSANE.



"AND BEFORE YOU GIVE ME THAT *ACCUSATORY* LOOK-- YOUR BOSS WAS THE ONE THAT PUT *THAT RULE* INTO PLAY. ASK GOD WHY HE BUILT YOU SO THAT WHENEVER ONE OF HIS ANGELS LOST THEIR WINGS THEY INSTANTLY TURN CRAZY.

"MY GUESS IS THAT IT'S SOME KIND OF DEFENSE MECHANISM. HE DOESN'T WANT YOU TO HAVE ANY RECOLLECTION OF WHAT YOU USED TO BE. THAT WAY YOU CAN'T BE OF ANY USE TO THE ENEMIES IN CASE YOU ARE CAPTURED AND TORTURED.



"AND FROM MY SADISTIC BENT... IT'S KINDA COOL THAT HE'D F*CK WITH YOU LIKE THAT. IT MEANS HE LIKES YOU A LOT, BUT DOESN'T REALLY LOVE YOU. MUST HAVE USED ALL OF THAT UP WHEN HE RESURRECTED JESUS A WHILE BACK.

"BUT AGAIN... I DIGRESS. WE'RE HERE TO TALK ABOUT OUR PAL, *SPAWN.*"



"IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S GONE A LITTLE CRAZY HIMSELF-- OR MORE SPECIFICALLY HIS SYMBIOTE HAS. AND THAT'S WHERE OUR **REAL PROBLEM** LIES!"

"SO... I'M GOING TO LET YOU IN ON A FEW SECRETS-- SECRETS GOD PROBABLY WANTED TO KEEP AWAY FROM YOU. BUT WHEN I'M DONE, **I EXPECT YOU TO FILL IN A FEW OF THE HOLES I'M WRESTLING WITH.**"



"NOW SIT BACK AND RELAX. THIS MIGHT TAKE AWHILE."



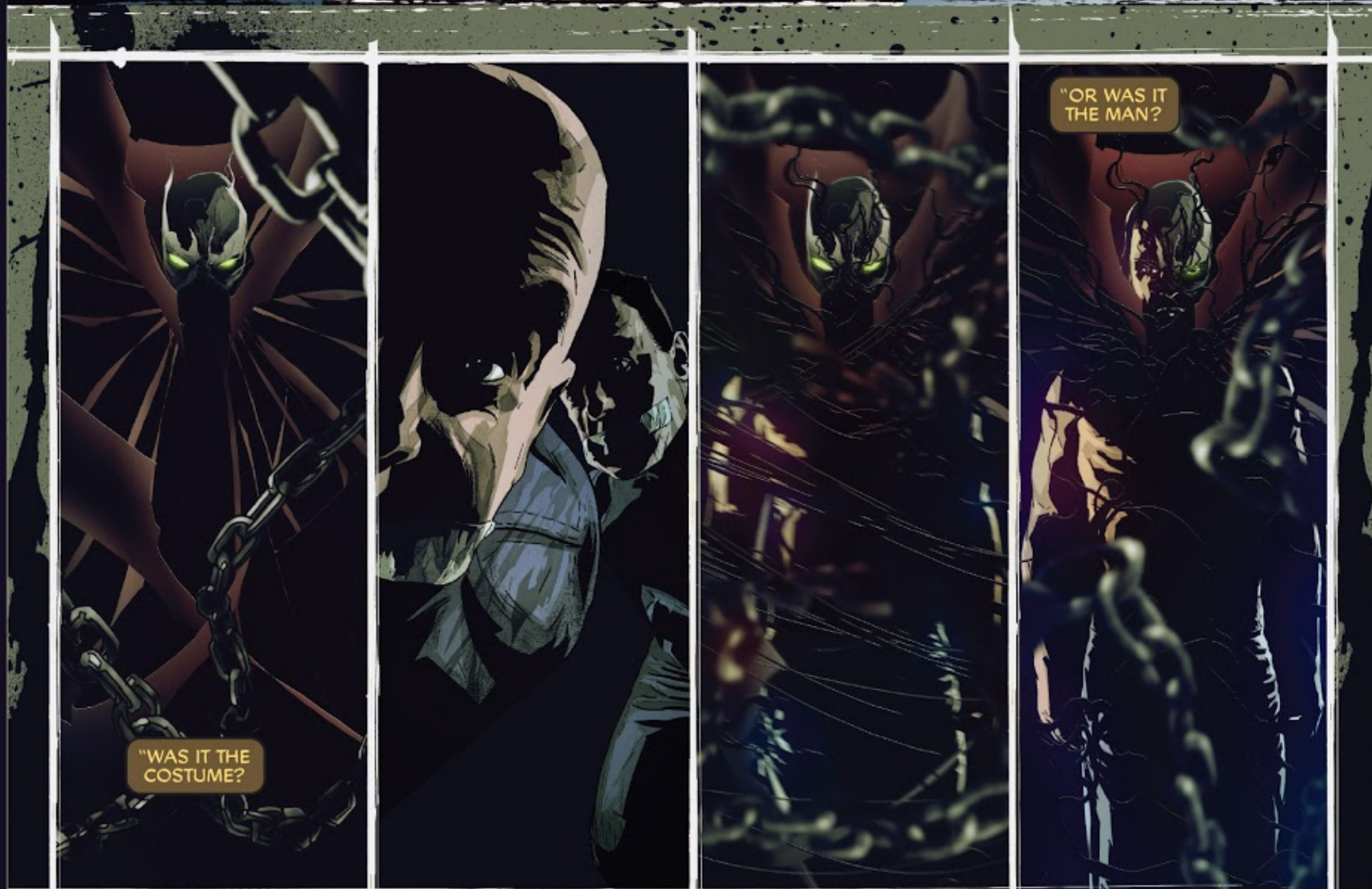
"YOU SEE, THE SYMBIOTE-- AT THIS VERY MOMENT-- IS OFF THREATENING OR KILLING SOME LOW LIFE SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD. HOW DO I KNOW? BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT THE COSTUME DOES. IT'S WHAT IT WAS DESIGNED FOR-- **TO KILL!**"



"YOU MAY HAVE FOUGHT A FEW SPAWNS IN THE PAST, BUT I BET IN ALL YOUR BATTLES YOU NEVER STOPPED TO ASK YOURSELF THESE FEW IMPORTANT QUESTIONS..."

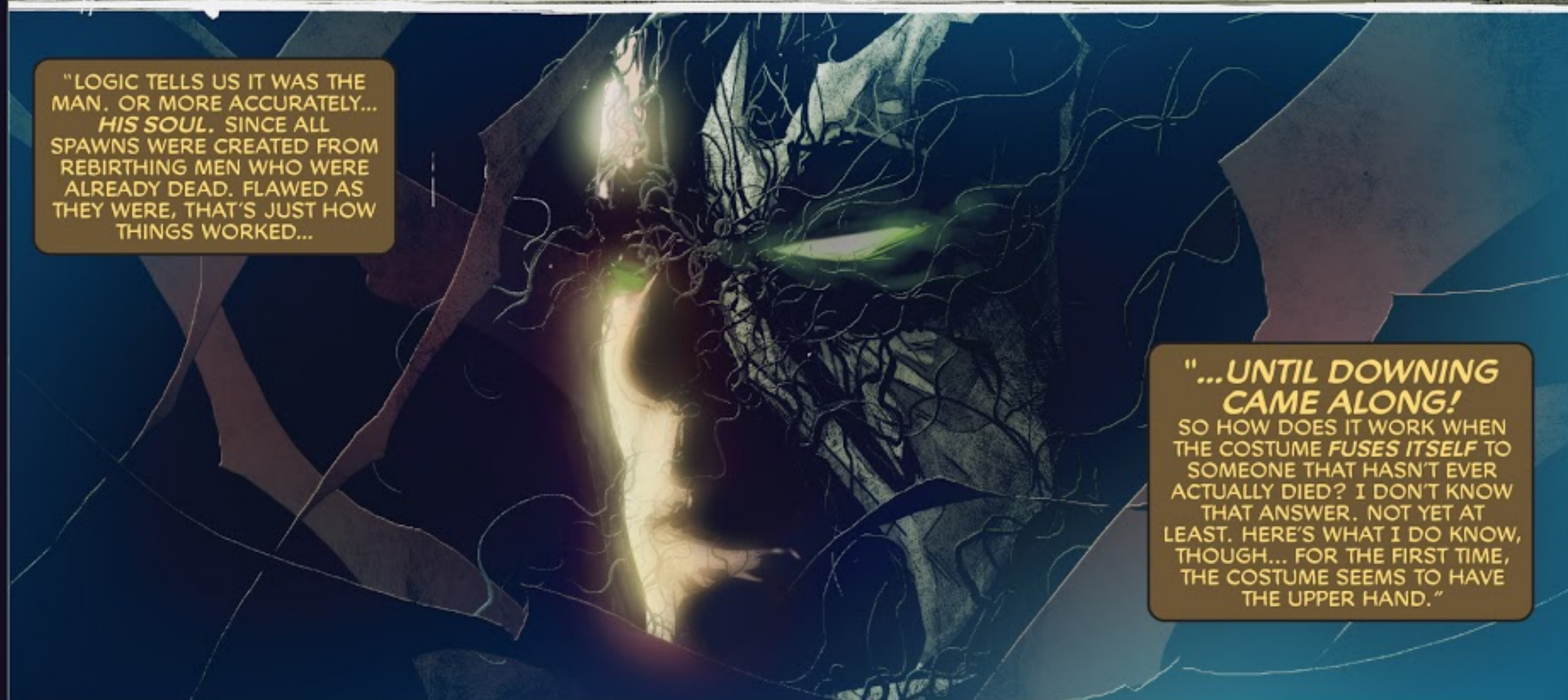


"LIKE WHO'S IN CONTROL? WHO ARE YOU ACTUALLY FIGHTING?"



"WAS IT THE COSTUME?"

"OR WAS IT THE MAN?"



"LOGIC TELLS US IT WAS THE MAN. OR MORE ACCURATELY... *HIS SOUL*. SINCE ALL SPAWNS WERE CREATED FROM REBIRTHING MEN WHO WERE ALREADY DEAD. FLAWED AS THEY WERE, THAT'S JUST HOW THINGS WORKED..."

"...UNTIL DOWNING CAME ALONG!"

SO HOW DOES IT WORK WHEN THE COSTUME *FUSES ITSELF* TO SOMEONE THAT HASN'T EVER ACTUALLY DIED? I DON'T KNOW THAT ANSWER. NOT YET AT LEAST. HERE'S WHAT I DO KNOW, THOUGH... FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE COSTUME SEEMS TO HAVE THE UPPER HAND."

"AND THE MAN IS JUST
BEING USED AS A PUPPET.
THOUGH HE DOESN'T
KNOW IT YET."



"THE QUESTION NOW IS, WHY? *WHY IS THE COSTUME DOING THIS?* WHAT'S IT TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH?"

"LET ME GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE. LAST NIGHT IN MEXICO SOME-PLACE, THE COSTUME CAME OUT TO FEED. IT WAS DRAWN TO A GANG OF CORRUPT POLICEMEN WHO WERE HELPING A DRUG CARTEL BY MURDERING ANY OF THEIR OWN OFFICERS THAT WEREN'T WILLING TO BECOME AS CORRUPT AS THEY WERE."

"THE COSTUME-- FOR THE MOST PART-- DIDN'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THAT. IT WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN FEEDING. AND JUST SO YOU'RE CLEAR... THE COSTUME'S BEEN DOING SOMETHING LIKE THAT NEARLY EVERY NIGHT WHILE DOWNING SLEEPS. IN THE MORNING-- OTHER THAN BEING TIRED-- DOWNING DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A CLUE WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO HIM. *BUT!*... FROM TIME TO TIME THE COSTUME LETS DOWNING WAKE UP SO HE CAN JOIN THE SYMBIOTE IN HIS BLOODY SLAUGHTERS."

"IN THE MORNING-- FAR AS I CAN TELL-- DOWNING EITHER DOESN'T REMEMBER WHAT HE'S DONE OR HAS CHOSEN TO BLOCK IT FROM HIS MEMORIES... THINKING HE'S JUST HAVING SOME MESSED UP NIGHTMARES."

"THAT DENIAL IS EXACTLY WHAT THE COSTUME WANTS. BECAUSE-- LIKE A DRUG-- ONCE THE COSTUME GETS COMPLETELY INTO JIM'S BLOOD STREAM AND D.N.A., IT'LL BE IN CONTROL! THOUGH IT'S SMART ENOUGH TO LET DOWNING CONTINUE THINKING HE'S STILL THE DRIVING FORCE.

"MEANING, AT SOME POINT, DOWNING WILL BE SO ADDICTED TO THE COSTUME'S POWER THAT HE'LL DENY THERE'S EVEN A PROBLEM. OR THAT THERE'S ANY CAUSE FOR CONCERN... BECAUSE IT'LL ALL FEEL SO NATURAL TO HIM."



DON'T BE SCARED... I'M HERE TO HELP.

I WANT... I'M GOING TO REMOVE THAT TAPE. BUT YOU NEED TO REMAIN CALM. OKAY?



<PLEASE! PLEASE DON'T KILL ME!! I BEG YOU!>*



*TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH



BUD! RELAX! IT'S JUST ME AND YOU... NOW CALM DOWN.

BASHH

<THE
DEVILS...
THEY'VE
COME!>

SHIT.

<THERE
THEY ARE!
**GET
THEM!**>

"AND THIS IS WHEN THE BRILLIANCE OF WHAT THE COSTUME IS PLANNING TAKES HOLD. BECAUSE EACH TIME DOWNING MOVES IN AND OUT OF THE SHADOWS--EACH TIME HIS HEART STARTS POUNDING, HIS ADRENALIN RACES..."



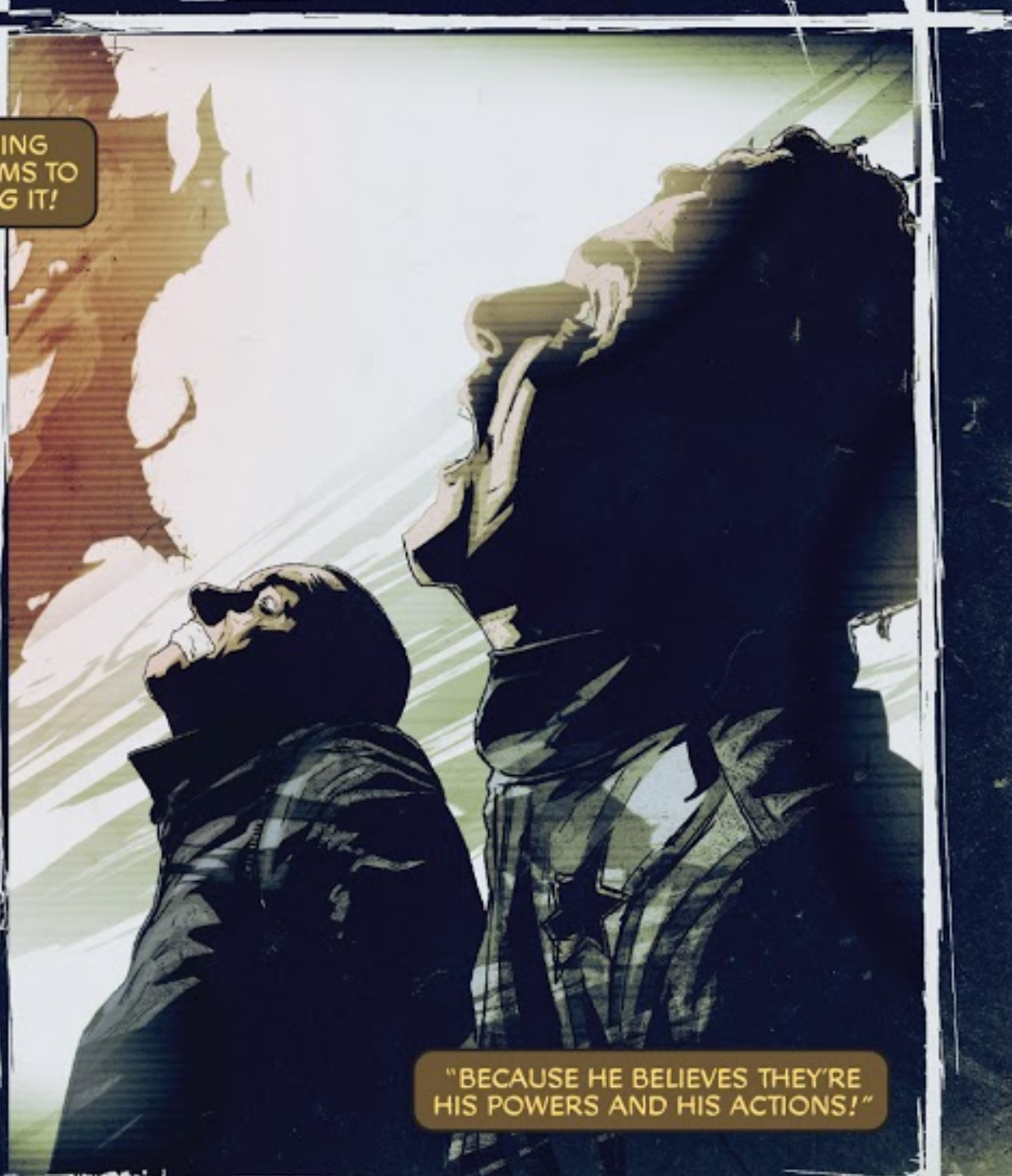
"...THE **COSTUME WINS** BY
SEEPING DEEPER INTO HIS SUB-
CONSCIOUS. MAKING DOWNING
EVEN MORE ADDICTED THAN BEFORE.



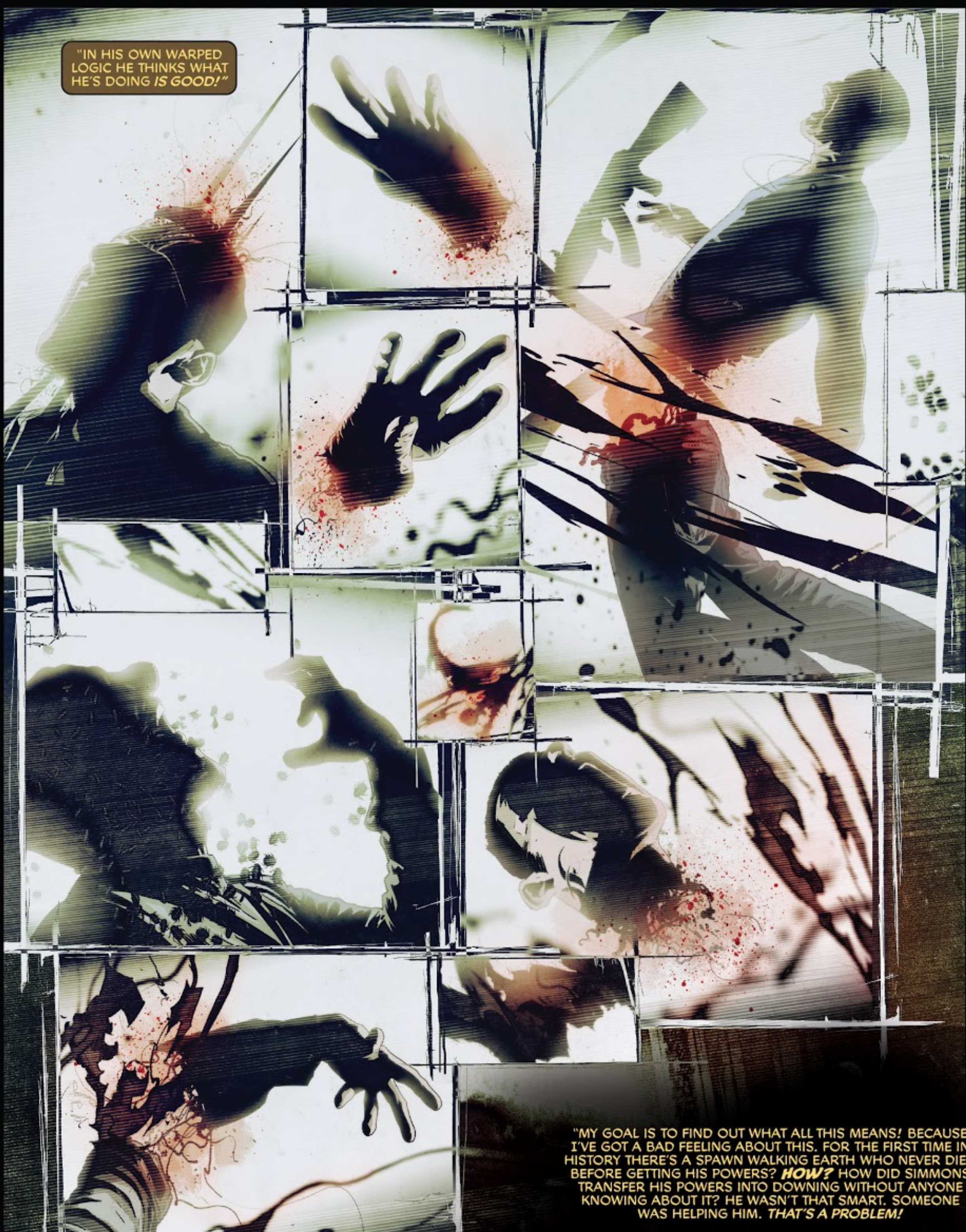
"BUT THE THING THAT HAS ME
WORRIED THE MOST-- THE THING
THAT EVEN GOD SHOULD BE
CONCERNED WITH..."



"...IS DOWNING
ACTUALLY SEEMS TO
BE ENJOYING IT!"



"BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THEY'RE
HIS POWERS AND HIS ACTIONS!"



"IN HIS OWN WARPED LOGIC HE THINKS WHAT HE'S DOING *IS GOOD!*"

"MY GOAL IS TO FIND OUT WHAT ALL THIS MEANS! BECAUSE I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY THERE'S A SPAWN WALKING EARTH WHO NEVER DIED BEFORE GETTING HIS POWERS? **HOW?** HOW DID SIMMONS TRANSFER HIS POWERS INTO DOWNING WITHOUT ANYONE KNOWING ABOUT IT? HE WASN'T THAT SMART. SOMEONE WAS HELPING HIM. **THAT'S A PROBLEM!**

"AND I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO THINKS THAT. DO YOU KNOW WHY GOD SENT YOU AFTER THIS NEW SPAWN SO QUICKLY? BECAUSE HE KNEW A **PERFECT STORM** WAS BREWING. HE KNEW THERE'S NEVER BEEN-- IN THE ENTIRE EXISTENCE OF MANKIND-- A HUMAN LIKE JIM DOWNING! **NEVER!**

"BECAUSE WHILE HE WAS IN HIS COMA HIS SOUL WAS TAKEN TO HEAVEN. YOU GUYS GRABBED HIS SPIRIT BEFORE YOU EVEN KNEW WHAT YOU HAD. THAT DOWNING'S SOUL TRIED TO MURDER GOD WHILE HE WAS THERE... THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM NOT MINE. WHAT COMPLETED JIM'S UNINTENDED JOURNEY WAS WHEN HEAVEN BARTERED HIM AWAY TO HELL FOR THE SOULS OF A FEW OTHERS.

"DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?

"HE'S DONE SOMETHING NONE OF US EVER WILL. HIS SOUL HAS BEEN TO HEAVEN... HELL... AND EARTH! AND HE NEVER **DIED!!**



"THAT'S WHY THE COSTUME WANTS
TO TAKE OVER THIS SPAWN, BECAUSE
WHOEVER CONTROLS DOWNING--
ULTIMATELY CONTROLS
THE UNIVERSE!!

"IF HE EVER UNDERSTANDS THAT... IF HE EVER PUTS ALL
THOSE PIECES TOGETHER, HE'LL HAVE THE POWER TO
DESTROY US ALL!

"AND THAT'S
GOING TO
BE ME!"

"BECAUSE IF WHAT I HEARD HAPPENED IN MEXICO-- IS BUT A *SMALL FRACTION* OF WHAT JIM AND THE COSTUME ARE CAPABLE OF-- MY NEED FOR CERTAIN ANSWERS HAS BECOME A PRIORITY."

SINCE YOU TWO ARE THE LAST...

...YOU GET TO LIVE.

I WANT YOU TO LEAVE HERE **NOW!** TELL YOUR BOSS TO LEAVE THE PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN ALONE.

IF HE DOESN'T-- I'LL BE BACK FOR ALL OF YOU!

NOW GO!



<JOSE! CAN YOU HEAR ME? SEND YOUR BOYS TO THE FIELD... HE'S STILL THERE.>

<HURRY! HE DOESN'T KNOW I'M HERE YET!>

HOW...?

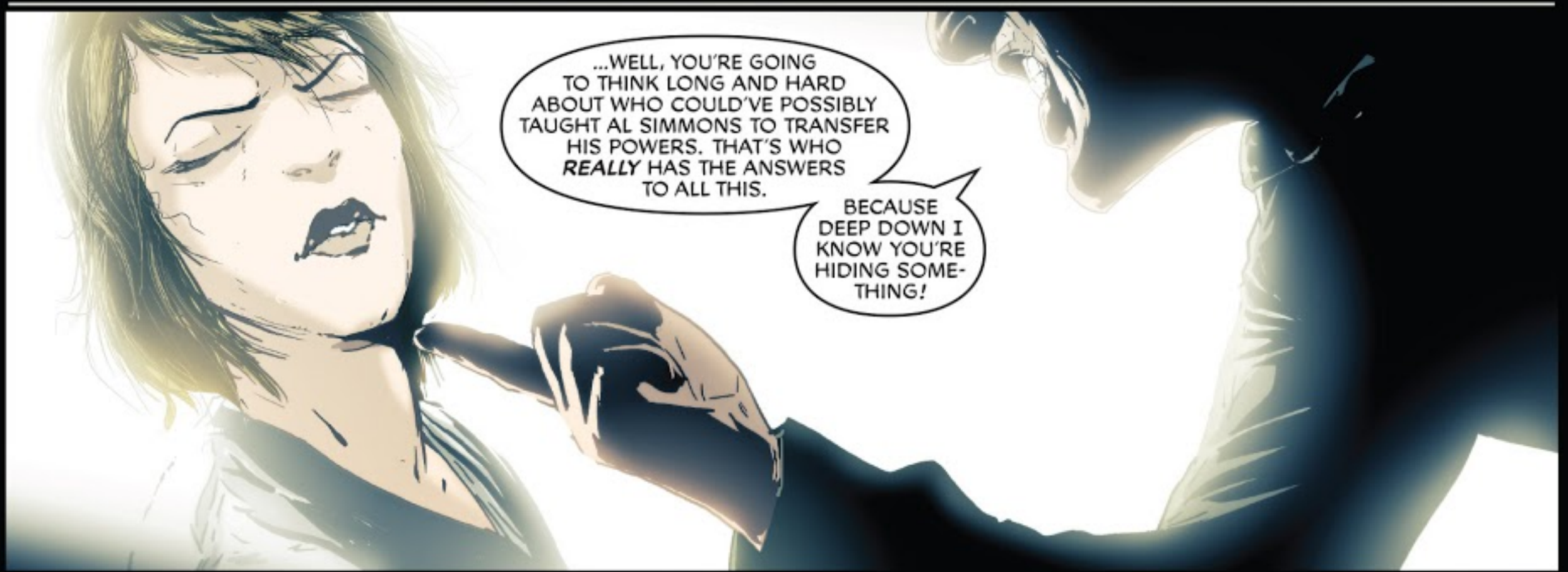
HOW'D I EVEN GET HERE?







"LET ME SEE IF I CAN MAKE THIS EASY. I HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT AND YOU HAVE SOMETHING I WANT. SO WHY DON'T WE MAKE A TRADE? I STILL HAVE YOUR WINGS SOMEPLACE. YOU CAN HAVE THOSE BACK. AND FOR ME..."



...WELL, YOU'RE GOING TO THINK LONG AND HARD ABOUT WHO COULD'VE POSSIBLY TAUGHT AL SIMMONS TO TRANSFER HIS POWERS. THAT'S WHO REALLY HAS THE ANSWERS TO ALL THIS.

BECAUSE DEEP DOWN I KNOW YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING!



I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR EYES.



THERE... THAT'S A GOOD GIRL.

SLAM

NOW GET A GOOD REST.



BECAUSE TOMORROW WE'RE GOING TO MAKE A DEAL.



THE ORIGIN OF THE SPAWN COSTUME BEGINS HERE!

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McFARIANE
+fco



HOW
LONG DO YOU
THINK WE HAVE
BEFORE SOMEONE
NOTICES YOU'RE
GONE?

WHAT?
MAYBE
ANOTHER
HALF
DAY?



THAT'S NOT
MUCH TIME. WE NEED
TO FIND IT-- BEFORE IT
SPREADS TO SOME-
ONE ELSE.



SO I'LL
ASK YOU
AGAIN...
**WHERE DID
HE PUT
IT?!**



STOP
THIS...
PLEASE...
JUST
STOP.



STOP?

WE DON'T
GET TO DECIDE THAT.
NEITHER YOU NOR I HAVE
ANY CONTROL OVER THIS!
I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU-- THIS
IS THE **LORD'S** WORK! HE'S THE
ONE DOING THIS!! YOU AND I
ARE JUST VESSELS FOR HIS
NEEDS. WHEN ARE YOU
GOING TO ACCEPT
THAT?

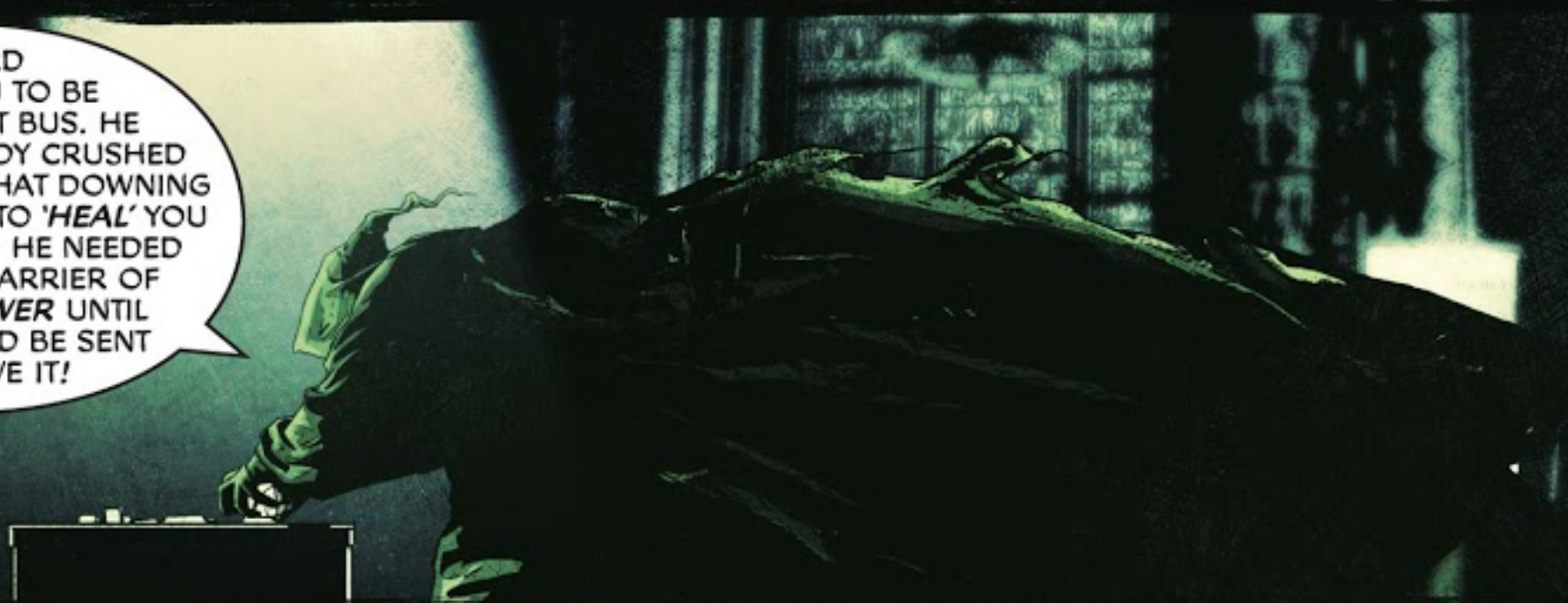
YOU'RE...
OUT OF YOUR
MIND.

**IT
DOESN'T
MATTER!**

WHAT'S IMPORTANT
IS WE BOTH REGAIN
OUR **SALVATION** BY
DOING EXACTLY-- AND
WITHOUT QUESTION--
WHAT OUR LORD
ASKS!

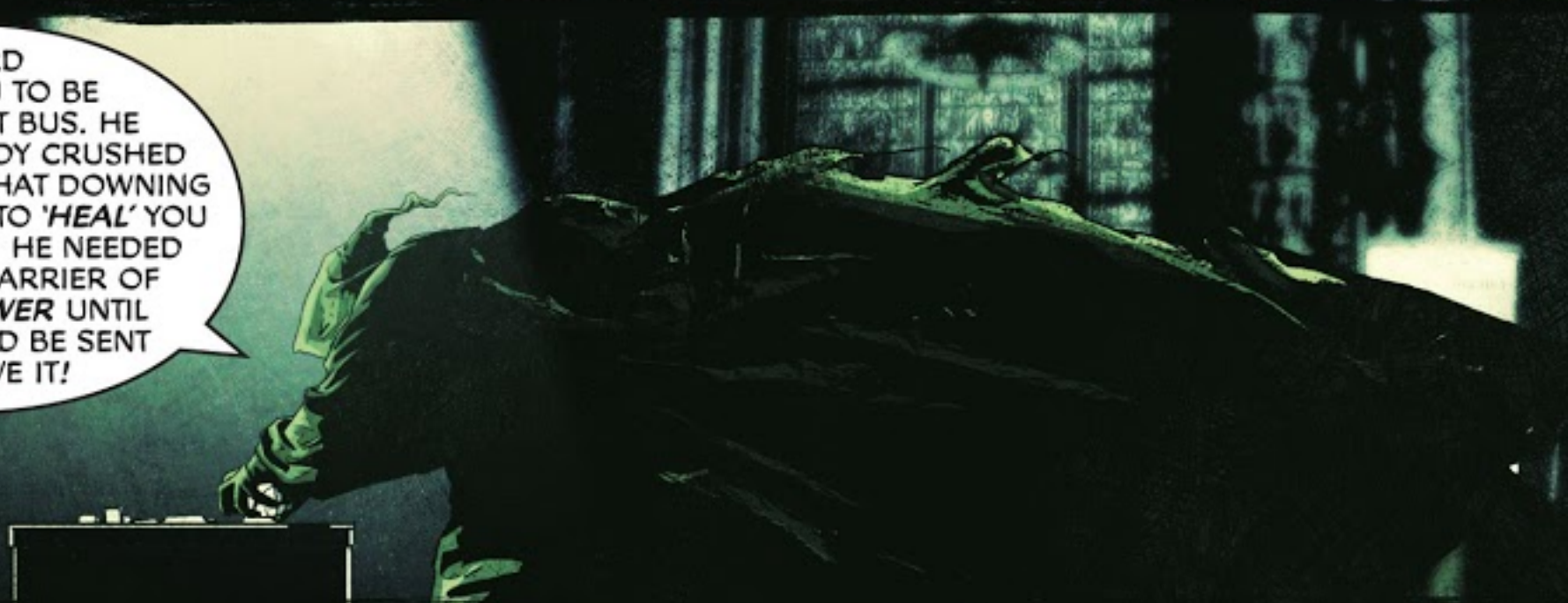


THERE'S A REASON
WHY WE ARE NOW BOTH
HERE TOGETHER. BECAUSE
WE'VE BEEN CHOSEN. NONE OF
THIS IS AN ACCIDENT. GOD WANTED
YOU TO BE THERE ON THAT STREET
CORNER! HE WANTED YOU NEAR
THAT FALSE PROPHET JIM
DOWNING. DON'T YOU
GET THAT?



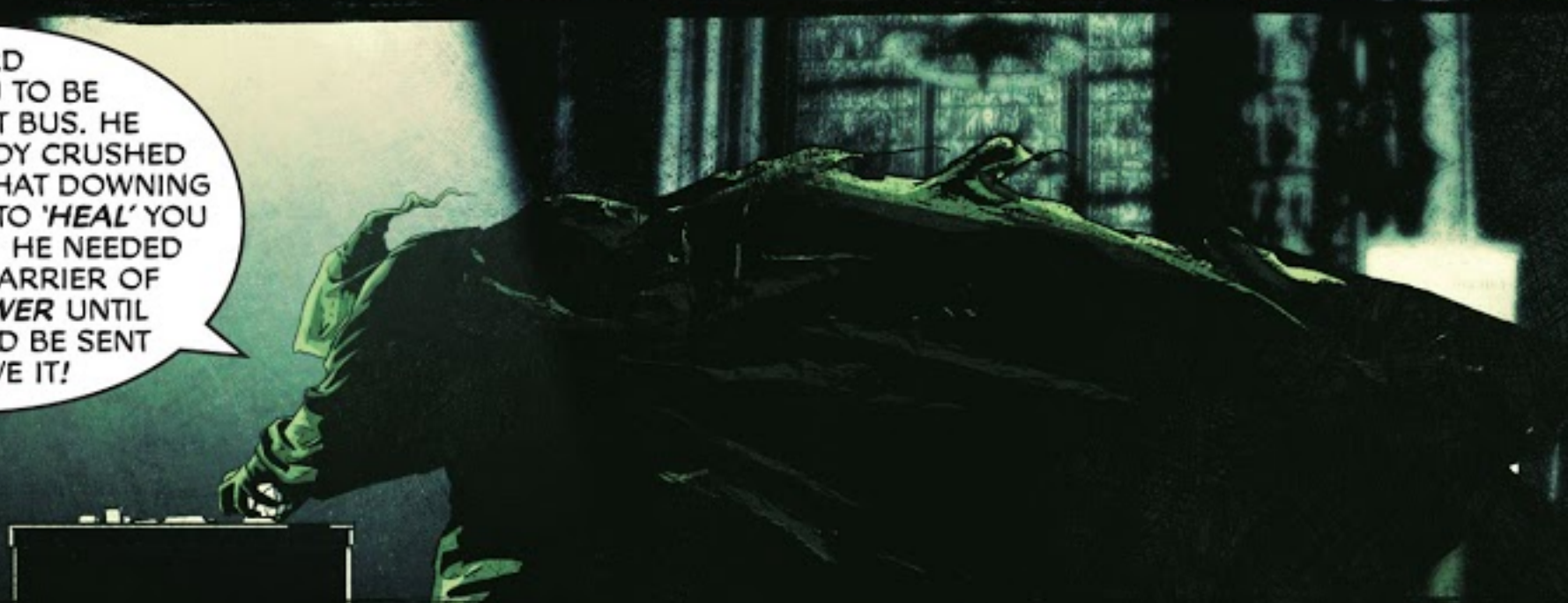
THE LORD
WANTED YOU TO BE
STRUCK BY THAT BUS. HE
WANTED YOUR BODY CRUSHED
AND BLEEDING SO THAT DOWNING
WOULD BE FORCED TO 'HEAL' YOU
WITH HIS POWER!* HE NEEDED
YOU TO BE THE CARRIER OF
THAT **DARK POWER** UNTIL
SOMEONE COULD BE SENT
TO RETRIEVE IT!

* Issues #203-4 --Todd

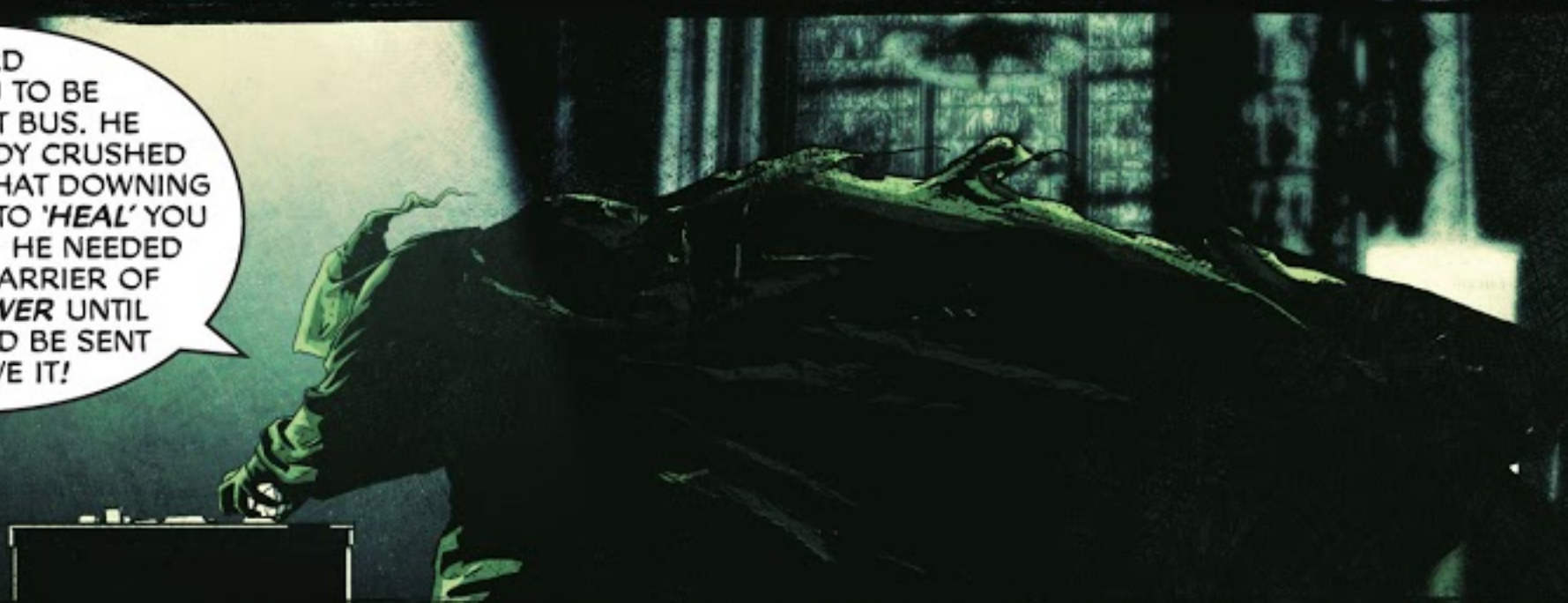


PLEASE...
DON'T.

NO
MORE.



THAT SOME-
ONE WAS **ME!** FOR ALL
MY FAULTS AND SINS... **GOD**
WAS STILL WILLING TO GIVE ME
A CHANCE AT REDEMPTION! JUST
WHEN I THOUGHT HE'D FORSAKEN
ME-- HIS GRACE AND COMPASSION
HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO ME.
AND ALL WE NEED TO DO TO
RECEIVE GOD'S GIFTS IS TO
FIND WHERE DOWNING PUT
THAT **DARK POWER**
INSIDE YOU.



SO WHY ARE
YOU RESISTING?
WHY **ARE YOU** MAKING
THIS SO DIFFICULT
ON US?!



IT'S GOT
TO BE IN THERE
SOMEWHERE!



NOT
AGAIN.



GOD
DAMN IT--
NOT
AGAIN!



WHY DO
I KEEP WAKING
IN PLACES I
DON'T WANT
TO BE?!



WHY CAN'T
I JUST SLEEP
THROUGH *THE*
NIGHT?



IS THAT
ASKING TOO
MUCH? TO HAVE
ONE NIGHT WITH-
OUT BEING *THIS*
SPAWN?!

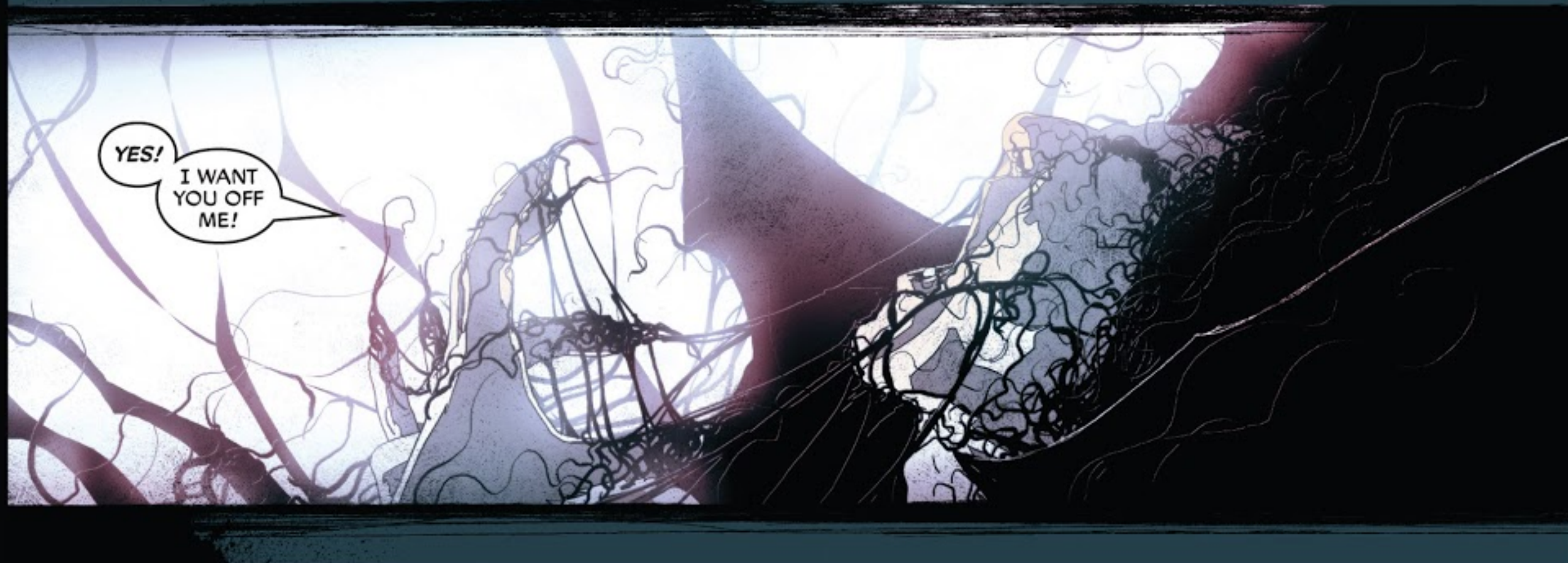
WITHOUT
HAVING TO DEAL
WITH THIS
MADNESS?!



LEAVE ME
ALONE!!

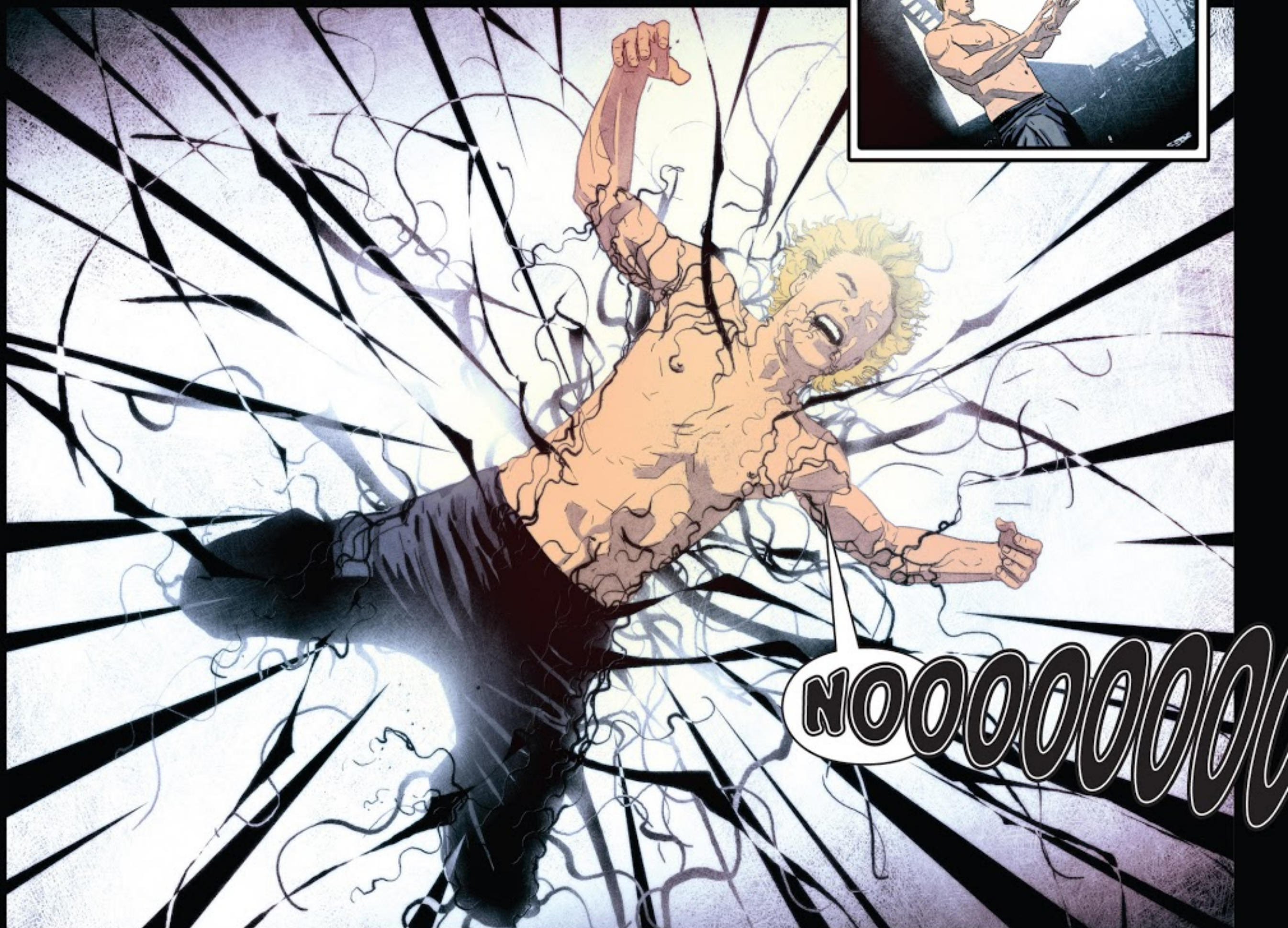


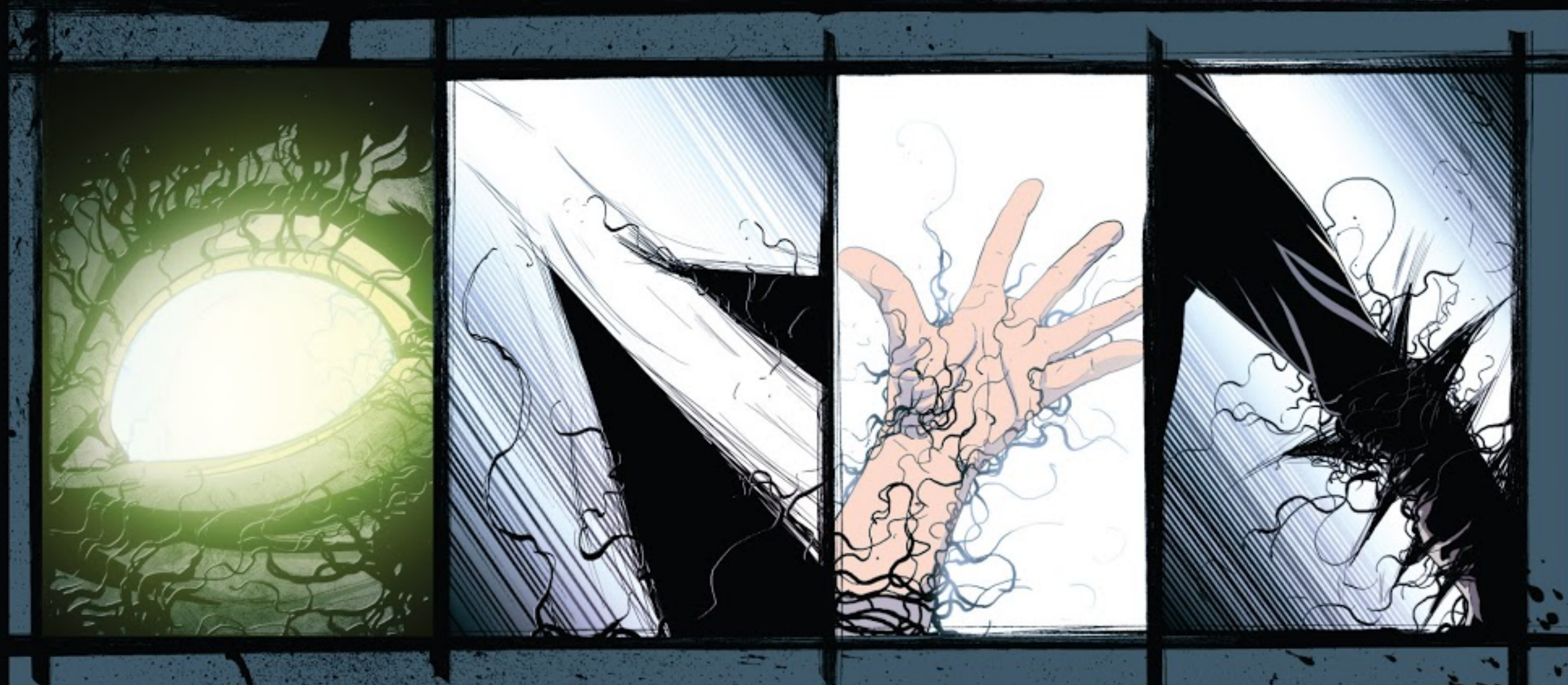
NO.



YES!
I WANT
YOU OFF
ME!







DID YOU
THINK YOU HAD
ANY POSSIBLE
CHANCE...

...TO
HIDE FROM
ME?

LOOK
AROUND. YOU'RE
EXACTLY WHERE I
WANT YOU.

IN THE
DARK.

SHOW
YOURSELF.

I AM.

I'M EVERY-
THING YOU SEE.
YOUR ARROGANCE
IS BLINDING
YOU.

YOU'RE
NOTHING.

AND
IT'S YOU
THAT'S HIDING
NOW. WHAT ARE
YOU SO AFRAID
OF?

ARROGANCE
AND SELF-
CONFIDENCE-- THAT
COMBINATION HAS ALWAYS
GIVEN YOU HUMANS A
FALSE SENSE OF
GRANDEUR.

BUT SADLY,
YOU'VE *MISTAKEN*
PATIENCE FOR FEAR. YOUR
OWN MORTALITY FORCES YOUR
KIND TO RUSH INTO THINGS--
TRYING TO ACCELERATE
GOALS SIMPLY BECAUSE
EACH DAY MAY BE
YOUR LAST.

"BUT IF YOU'RE IMMORTAL... YOU CAN WAIT. THERE IS NO RUSH. THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS IS WAITING UNTIL THE MOMENT IS PERFECT!"

"AND THOUGH IT TOOK NEARLY A MILLION OF YOUR HUMAN YEARS... I FINALLY HAVE WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR. A HOST-- A MAN THAT NEVER DIED! A TRUE 'LIVING SOUL.'"

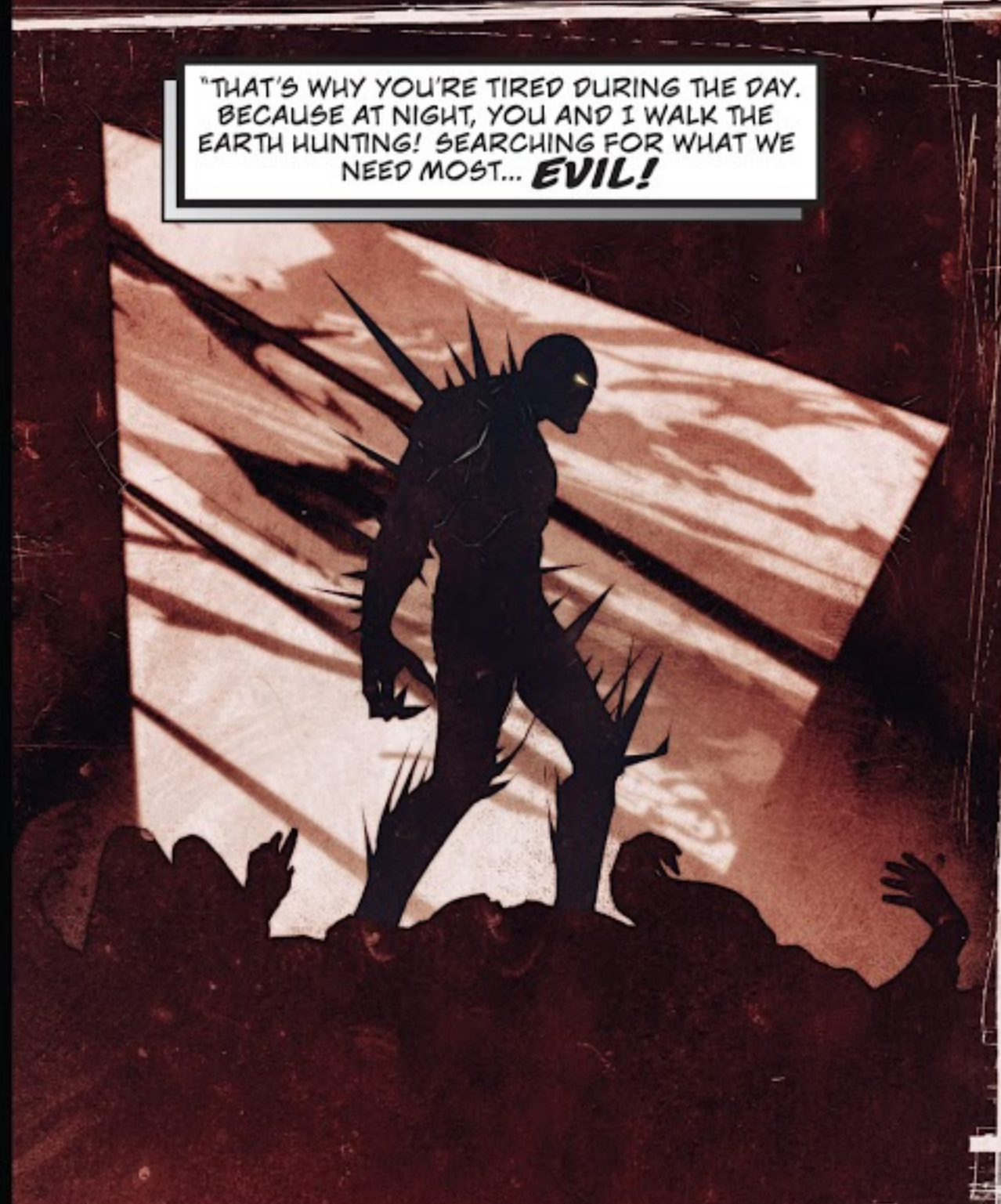
"THAT WAS THE FIRST STEP. MORE CRUCIAL WOULD BE ADAPTING TO THAT HOST-- ADAPTING TO YOU! AND I'VE BEEN PATIENTLY ALTERING MY FORM TRYING TO FIND THE PRECISE SHAPE THAT WOULD COMPLETE MY **BONDAGE** OVER YOU!"

"THOUGH THAT TRANSFORMATION CAME WITH AN UNEXPECTED SIDE EFFECT. INSTEAD OF JUST BEING DRAWN TO EVIL-- LIKE IN THE PAST-- I NOW HUNGERED FOR IT! CRAVED THE POWER IT GAVE US!"





"SO EVERY NIGHT, WHEN YOU SLEEP--
WHEN OUR BOND IS STRONGEST!
WHEN WE'RE *INVINCIBLE*... THAT'S
WHEN I HUNGER MOST.



"THAT'S WHY YOU'RE TIRED DURING THE DAY.
BECAUSE AT NIGHT, YOU AND I WALK THE
EARTH HUNTING! SEARCHING FOR WHAT WE
NEED MOST... *EVIL!*



"THEN WE *DEVOUR* IT!!"

"EACH DEATH BRINGING US MORE POWER. YOU'VE ACCEPTED YOUR PART QUITE WILLINGLY SO FAR. AND IN TIME YOU'LL ACCEPT ME AS YOUR **MASTER**. ON THAT DAY WE'LL RULE **ALL** OF EXISTENCE!

"HEAVEN. HELL. EARTH. ALL WILL BEND A KNEE TO OUR PRESENCE. THAT'S WHEN YOU'LL BECOME A KING--
A GOD! BECAUSE YOU'RE THE 'KEY'!

"EVEN THOUGH HELL HAS TAKEN CREDIT FOR MY CREATION FOR EONS-- THEY KNOW IT'S A LIE! THEY ALSO KNOW THE TRUTH TOO.

"THAT I--
THAT **SPAWN**-- WAS
**BORN IN
HEAVEN!**

"YOUR GOD, THE ONE YOU ALL WORSHIP, CREATED ME THE MOMENT HE CREATED THE UNIVERSE. BECAUSE WHEN HE CAST HIS FIRST LIGHT ON THE PLANETS HE'D CREATED... HE ALSO GAVE BIRTH TO SHADOWS! TO DARKNESS! HE THOUGHT HE COULD HARNESS BOTH LIGHT AND DARK AT THE SAME TIME. BUT JESUS MADE SURE THAT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN!"*



"AND WHEN HIS ONLY SON
BETRAYED HIM-- IT WAS THEN GOD
LEARNED THAT THE TRUE NATURE OF
MAN WASN'T HIS LUST OF FLESH, BUT
HIS LUST FOR POWER!"

"YOU, JIM DOWNING,
HAVE BECOME THE
SHINING EXAMPLE OF
THAT!"

"I CAN'T EXIST... WE CAN'T EXIST--
UNLESS YOU'VE ACCEPTED THAT WE
MUST CORRUPT AND DESTROY
EVERYTHING IN OUR PATH!"

"AND SO FAR YOUR
ACTIONS HAVE PROVEN NOT
ONLY THAT YOU'VE
ACCEPTED YOUR FATE-- BUT
YOU ACTUALLY **ENJOY IT!**"

THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES I EVEN LEFT YOU IN COMMAND OF US TO SEE HOW YOU'D REACT. AND EACH TIME-- YOU CHOSE TO **EMBRACE THE DARK!** MY TOUCH HAS BECOME A SECOND SKIN TO YOU. MAKING OUR TRANSFORMATION NEARLY COMPLETE AS WE BEGIN TO FORGE INTO ONE SINGLE BEING.

SOON THERE WILL BE NO JIM DOWNING! NO SYMBIOTE! INSTEAD-- IN ITS PLACE-- THERE WILL ONLY BE A **SPAWN!**



AND TONIGHT THE LAST PIECE OF THAT PROCESS HAS BEGUN-- BECAUSE OUR FUSION COULDN'T BE COMPLETED UNTIL YOU'D BEEN MADE AWARE OF WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO BECOME. YOU NOW HAVE THAT KNOWLEDGE!



THOUGH IT'LL BE BURIED DEEP IN YOUR SUB-CONSCIOUS.



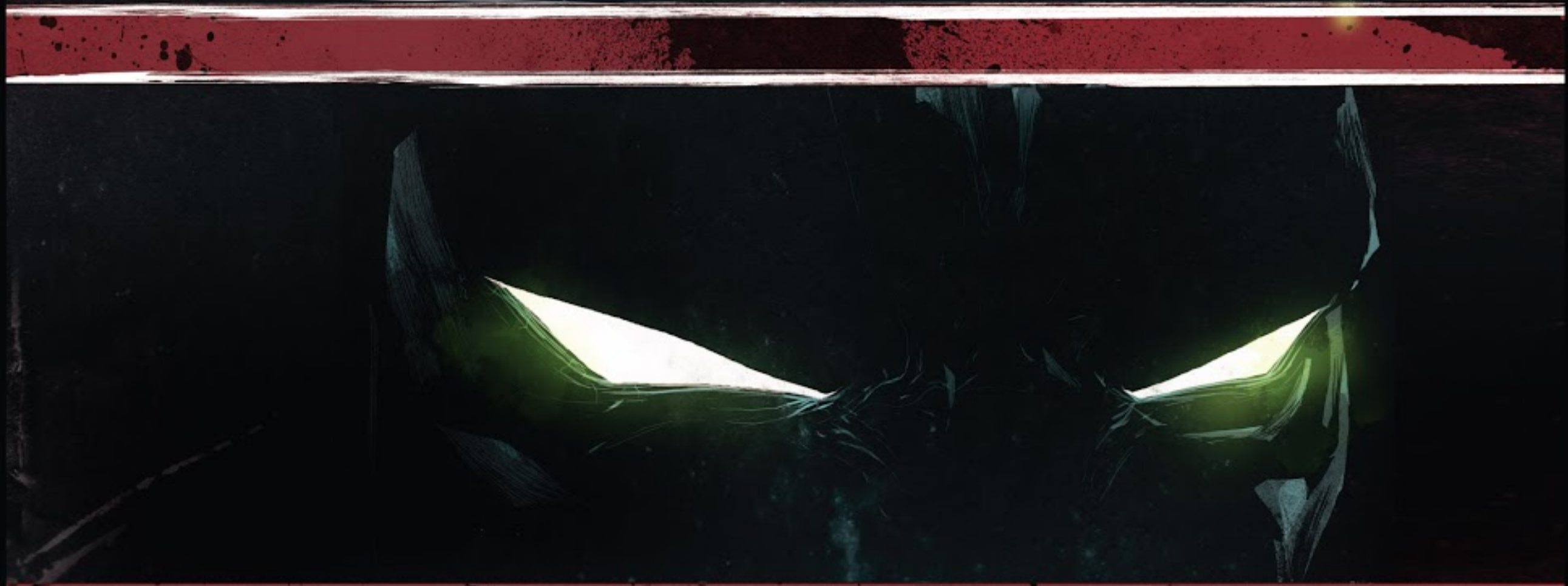
BUT NOW THAT YOU KNOW-- NOW THAT I'VE TOLD YOU-- YOUR TRANSFORMATION IS **IRREVERSIBLE!**



AND
WHAT'S WORSE--
YOU WON'T REMEMBER
ANY OF THIS, BECAUSE
WHEN YOU WAKE UP YOU'RE
GOING TO GO ABOUT YOUR DAY
LIKE NOTHING EVER HAPPENED.
SEE... I CONTROL YOU.
ALL OF YOU. YOUR SOUL.
YOUR BODY AND
YOUR MIND.



THAT'S WHAT'S
BEEN TORTURING
YOU. KNOWING YOU
ONLY EXIST FOR **MY**
NEEDS. AND THERE'S
NOTHING YOU CAN
DO ABOUT ANY
OF IT.



YOU'RE
WRONG...



TO BE CONTINUED



SPAWN

HAUNT

image

234

DIGITAL
EDITION

McFARLANE
+C.O.

SPAWN COSTUME
ORIGIN: **PART 2**



BLOG POST #347:

I've written many times, in incredible detail, about the nature of good and evil. Where it comes from. Who are prime candidates that Heaven and Hell target. And why we humans love to wallow in both. But what happens when someone tries to defy both God's or Satan's efforts? What happens to them?



What happens to the atheist? He lives his life surrounded by good and evil, but casually chooses to endorse neither, deluding himself to think that somehow he's just something in-between.

Those that follow my blogs know that I think that it's impossible to be neutral. We're all destined to become something whether we like it or not. There's no escaping it.



God has his plans. Satan has his... and we're just the poor suckers that have to choose between the two. They call it **'free will'**.

But I've been wrestling with something. What if someone wanted a third choice? What if someone wanted **NOTHING!** Think about it. What if a person rejected entrance to both Heaven and Hell?



I know it seems impossible for those of us that have religion in our hearts. I have actually met people who have told me not only do they not believe in an afterlife... but even if they were wrong and they appeared at the Pearly Gates to be judged by God it wouldn't matter to them.

The reason it wouldn't matter, they say, is because even at that moment, even if God forgave them for their sins and allowed them entrance into his kingdom... they wouldn't go.

Yes, you read that correctly...
THEY WOULDN'T GO!



It's crazy, right!? No one would be that stupid, would they? But then I look in their eyes and can see that's **exactly** what they'd do. And the pure honesty of that conviction is quite something to behold.

In death they'd choose nothing.
Want nothing.



And as inconceivable as that may sound to you or I... they're completely at peace with that decision.

So that's today's poll question. Do you think **NOTHING** can exist? If so, what would it look like and how would it feel? I'd like your opinion.





MARC ROSEN - Manager, Jim Downing

FIRST OFF, I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU, MR. ROSEN, FOR COMING ON TODAY. AS YOU HEARD ME SAY IN THE EARLIER SEGMENT, THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME FAIRLY STRONG OPINIONS ABOUT THE 'POWERS' WE'VE SEEN MR. DOWNING DISPLAY IN PUBLIC. CERTAIN CONSERVATIVE GROUPS ARE CALLING HIS ACTIONS BLASPHEMOUS IN NATURE AND A DIRECT SLAP AT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, IN PARTICULAR. DOES MR. DOWNING HAVE ANY OPINION ABOUT THAT?

I'D LIKE TO ALSO THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME ON TODAY. BUT TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, JIM IS ACUTELY AWARE THAT THE MYSTERIOUS NATURE OF HIS ABILITIES WILL LEAD SOME TO MAKE CONCLUSIONS THAT NONE OF US FROM THE FOUNDATION WOULD ENDORSE. IN FACT, IT'S THE PUBLIC AND NEWS OUTLETS THAT HAVE COME UP WITH SOME OF THE LABELS BEING THROWN ABOUT.

BUT YOU CAN UNDERSTAND SOME OF THE ANXIETY THAT MR. DOWNING IS CAUSING?

OF COURSE. LOOK-- NONE OF US, INCLUDING JIM, HAVE YET BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE EXACTLY WHY HE WOKE FROM HIS COMA WITH THESE POWERS. THE DOCTORS HAVE RUN DOZENS OF TESTS BUT AREN'T ANY CLOSER TO GIVING US SOUND REASONS FOR THEIR EXISTENCE. AND AS FOR SOME OF THE CONSERVATIVE GROUPS, WELL... AS ABE LINCOLN SAID, "YOU CAN'T PLEASE EVERYONE."

HAVE THERE BEEN ANY INCIDENTS BETWEEN THE TWO PROTEST GROUPS-- GIVEN THAT SOME SEE HIM AS A SAINT AND OTHERS THINK HE'S SATAN?

IT'S STRANGE THAT YOU SAY THAT SINCE HE WAS RECENTLY SHOT DURING AN INTERVIEW. HOW IS THAT WELL BEHAVED?

NO. SO FAR EVERYONE HAS BEEN VERY WELL BEHAVED.



BUT HE WAS STILL SHOT! SURELY THAT HAS TO GIVE YOU SOME CONCERN.

I WAS TALKING MORE ABOUT THE CROWDS AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE WHERE SECURITY IS VERY TIGHT. THE INCIDENT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT WAS AT ANOTHER LOCATION.

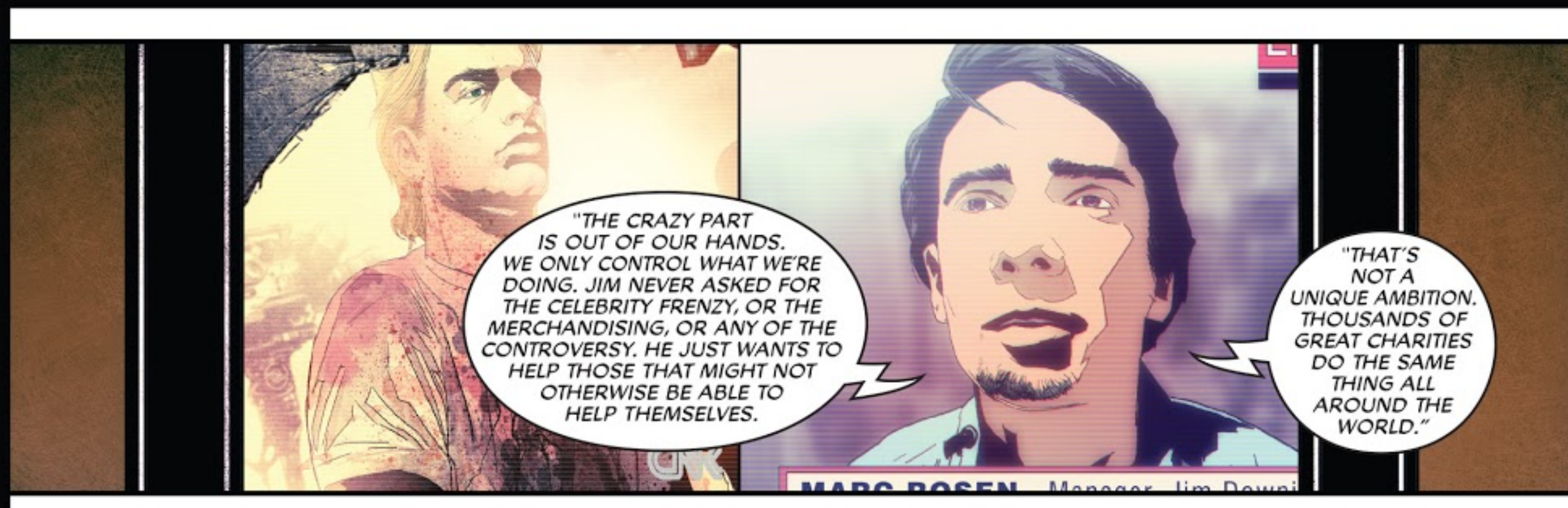
IT DOES. I DON'T MEAN TO MAKE LIGHT OF THAT. WE'VE TAKEN PROPER STEPS TO PREVENT THAT FROM HAPPENING AGAIN.

DO YOU THINK BEING A POLARIZING PERSONALITY, WHO'S ALSO BECOMING A SOCIAL MEDIA SUPER-STAR WITH THE YOUTH, IS A BIT TOO MUCH FOR HIM?

HONESTLY, HE ISN'T REALLY COMFORTABLE WITH THE FULL-TIME MEDIA SCRUTINY-- BUT HE REALIZES HIS FOUNDATION WILL BE MORE SUCCESSFUL IF PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT HIS CHARITABLE GOALS.

WHAT ABOUT THE ODD CIRCUMSTANCE OF HIS FORMER DOCTORS PASSING AWAY, OR THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE PHOTOGRAPHER HE SAVED ON TV? ARE THOSE JUST COINCIDENCES? I'M WONDERING HOW MUCH CRAZIER YOU THINK DOWNING'S LIFE CAN STILL GET?





"THE CRAZY PART IS OUT OF OUR HANDS. WE ONLY CONTROL WHAT WE'RE DOING. JIM NEVER ASKED FOR THE CELEBRITY FRENZY, OR THE MERCHANDISING, OR ANY OF THE CONTROVERSY. HE JUST WANTS TO HELP THOSE THAT MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE BE ABLE TO HELP THEMSELVES."

"THAT'S NOT A UNIQUE AMBITION. THOUSANDS OF GREAT CHARITIES DO THE SAME THING ALL AROUND THE WORLD."



"AGREED. BUT NONE OF THEM HAS A FOUNDER WHO HEALS PEOPLE OR CAN RESURRECT THEMSELVES AFTER BEING SHOT POINT BLANK. THAT'S THE PART, I THINK, MOST PEOPLE ARE REACTING TO. HIS 'GOD-LIKE' ABILITIES. BECAUSE IF WE WERE TO FIND OUT THAT--AND I KNOW I MAY SOUND LIKE MILLIONS OF OTHERS--THAT HE HAS BEEN TOUCHED BY SOME DIVINE POWER...? GIVEN HIS MEMORY LOSS, DO YOU THINK IT'S EVEN REMOTELY POSSIBLE HE COULD BE THE 'SECOND COMING'?"

"NO. THERE'S ZERO PROOF OF THAT. THOUGH WE MIGHT NOT HAVE THE ANSWER TO HOW HE ATTAINED HIS POWERS--NONE OF US, ESPECIALLY JIM, ARE LABELING IT AS ANYTHING MORE THAN SOME FREAK ANOMALY. HECK, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF IT'LL LAST. I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH CLEARER I CAN MAKE THAT."



"YOU BUYING HIS SHIT, HALLWELL?"

"I CAN'T FIGURE IF ROSEN IS A BRILLIANT ACTOR OR A NAIVE FOOL."



"EITHER WAY, DOWNING'S PRESENCE IS DISRUPTING OUR INFLUENCE. THE POPE'S ALREADY BEEN ADVISED HOW BEST TO ELIMINATE THIS CURRENT THREAT."

An abandoned
church renovation site.

I'M SORRY,
FATHER, I'VE
FAILED YOU
AGAIN.

AND IT WAS
OBVIOUS, ONCE I
OPENED HIM UP, THAT
YOUR SPIRIT DID NOT
RESIDE *WITHIN HIM*. BUT
YOU, MY LORD, WILL
ALWAYS BE MY
GUIDING LIGHT.

I TRIED
GETTING YOUR
ANSWER BUT HE
WAS TOO WEAK.
TOO FRAIL.



SO I WILL
NOT REST UNTIL
I FIND IT.



IT'S
STILL HERE.
I KNOW
IT!



THOUGH
HE DIDN'T
SURVIVE... I KNOW
THE 'DARKNESS' IS
STILL HERE.

DOWNING
PUT IT IN HIM.
THERE HAS TO
BE A WAY TO
GET IT OUT.



HE'S
DEAD.
LEAVE HIM
ALONE.

A man with dark hair and a light beard, wearing a black priest's habit with a white clerical collar, is sitting on a dark wooden bench. He is holding a lit cigarette in his right hand, with smoke rising from it. He is looking off to the side with a serious expression. The background is dark and indistinct.

I'VE SEEN YOUR
KIND BEFORE. HUNDREDS
OF TIMES, SADLY. EACH OF
YOU FILLED WITH A GRANDIOSE
VISION OF YOUR OWN SELF-
WORTH. USING GOD AS AN
EXCUSE TO WHY AFTER THIRTY
OR FORTY YEARS YOUR LIFE
IS NOTHING BUT A
PATHETIC WASTE.

AND NOT
ONCE DO
YOU EVER ASK
IF YOU MIGHT BE
PART OF THE
PROBLEM.

NOPE!
YOU'RE ALWAYS
THE VICTIM. THERE'S
ALWAYS A REASON WHY
YOU GOT THE SHORT END
OF NEARLY EVERY SITUATION.
ACCOUNTABILITY FOR YOUR
OWN ACTIONS NEVER CROSSES
YOUR MIND-- BECAUSE IT
COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE YOUR
FAULT THAT **YOUR LIFE**
TURNED OUT EXACTLY
THE WAY THAT YOU
DECIDED TO
LIVE IT.

AND THEN
YOU TRY TO PAWN
OFF YOUR ANGER OR YOUR
LACK OF INTELLIGENCE ON GOD.
THINKING HE'S GIVEN YOU
PERMISSION TO BECOME A LIFE
LONG F*CK UP. IMAGINE HOW
INSULTING THAT MUST BE TO HIM.
SO DO US BOTH A FAVOR--
STOP USING HIS NAME
IN VAIN.

BECAUSE
HE'S NOT
LISTENING TO
YOU. HE NEVER
HAS.

NO!

HE TALKS
TO ME! HE
ANSWERS MY
PRAYERS!

I'M NOT THE ONE
THAT NEEDS TO WORRY
ABOUT INSULTING THE
LORD! IT'S THOSE *LIKE YOU!*
YOU KEEP HOPING HE'S
GOING TO FILL YOU WITH HIS
GRACE EVEN THOUGH YOU
LIVE A DEMONIC
LIFE OF SIN!



EASY, BIG
BOY! AND LOOK
WHO'S CALLING
THE KETTLE
BLACK.

NOW WHY DON'T
YOU SIT DOWN AND SEE
IF WE CAN'T FIGURE THIS THING
OUT. LIKE A COUPLE OF ADULTS.
YOU REMEMBER WHAT THAT IS,
RIGHT? BEING AN ADULT? TRYING TO
USE LOGIC? AREN'T YOU IN THE
LEAST BIT CURIOUS WHO I AM?
OR WHY I'M HERE?

I
ALREADY
KNOW
WHY.

OH
YEAH?
PLEASE, DO
TELL.

YOU'RE A TEST.
ANOTHER BURDEN I MUST
BEAR. GOD HAS TESTED ME SO
MANY TIMES-- WANTING TO SEE IF MY
FAITH WILL WAIVER. OR IF TEMPTATION
WILL GET THE BETTER PART OF ME. HE
ALSO KNEW I'D FAIL TO FIND THE 'DARK
POWERS' ON THE FIRST TRY, SO HE'S
SENT YOU TO TEST MY RESOLVE AND
SEE IF I *HAVE THE COURAGE* TO
FIND ANOTHER OF DOWNING'S
CURED PATIENTS!

**I DO,
MY
LORD!**
I WILL FIND
ANOTHER!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
SEE, I THINK YOU'RE A LITTLE
CONFUSED... THAT DARKNESS THING
YOU'RE FEELING. THAT'S ME. YOUR GOD
MUST BE AS BLIND AND STUPID AS YOU ARE
IF YOU'RE HIS CHOSEN SERVANT. I'D
LIKE TO THINK THE GUY UPSTAIRS
IS BETTER THAN THAT.

BUT LET'S STICK TO
THE POINT. DO YOU WANT
GOD'S FORGIVENESS? DO YOU
WANT HIM SO DEEP IN YOUR
SOUL YOU CAN'T SURVIVE
WITHOUT HIM?





YES.

AND YOU WANT TO FIND THE DARKNESS FOR HIM?

YES.

THEN MAYBE I WAS WRONG. LET HIM KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVE HIM. LET HIM HEAR YOUR PRAISES!

CALL OUT TO HIM!



LORD...

I AM WITH YOU! I WILL DO AS YOU COMMAND! **NOW AND FOREVER!!**



YOUR ARM. I HEARD YOU HACKED IT OFF AS A SIGN OF YOUR LOYALTY TO HIM. IS IT TRUE?

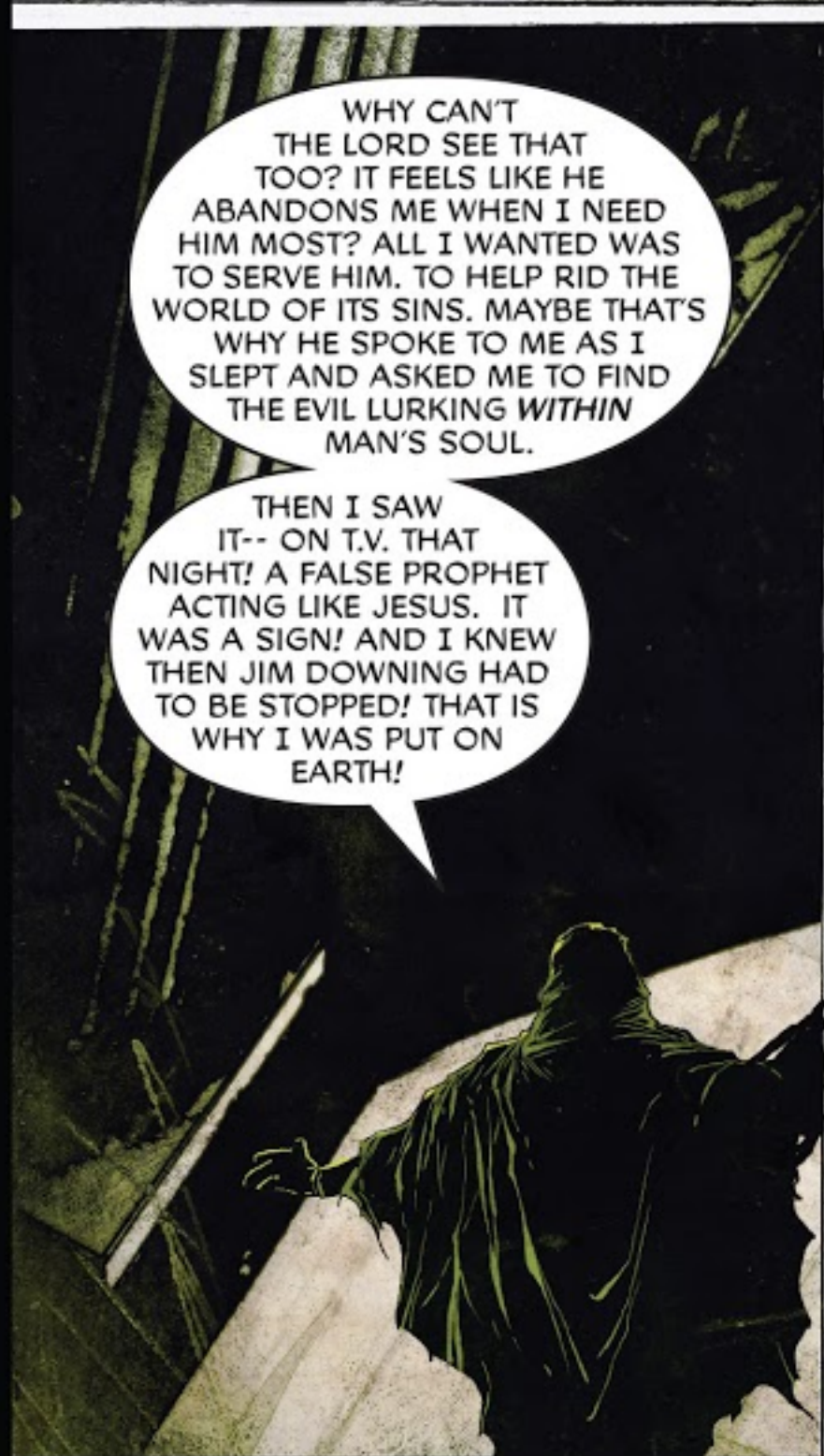
I WANTED HIS APPROVAL SO BADLY.

WE ALL DO. YOU WERE JUST WILLING TO SACRIFICE MORE THAN MOST OF US. YOU SHOULD BE COMMENDED.



DO YOU BELIEVE THAT? THAT I'M WORTH HIS SALVATION?

I DO.



WHY CAN'T THE LORD SEE THAT TOO? IT FEELS LIKE HE ABANDONS ME WHEN I NEED HIM MOST? ALL I WANTED WAS TO SERVE HIM. TO HELP RID THE WORLD OF ITS SINS. MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE SPOKE TO ME AS I SLEPT AND ASKED ME TO FIND THE EVIL LURKING *WITHIN* MAN'S SOUL.

THEN I SAW IT-- ON T.V. THAT NIGHT! A FALSE PROPHET ACTING LIKE JESUS. IT WAS A SIGN! AND I KNEW THEN JIM DOWNING HAD TO BE STOPPED! THAT IS WHY I WAS PUT ON EARTH!



TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL... AND TO FIND WHERE EVIL IS HIDING! WHY CAN'T HE SEE THAT?



WHY DOESN'T HE UNDERSTAND THAT?



WHY?!



I THINK THE ANSWER'S QUITE SIMPLE.

WE'RE ALL **HAUNTED** BY THINGS OUT OF OUR CONTROL. THAT'S WHY THE BIBLE GIVES US SUCH COMFORT DURING OUR LOWEST MOMENTS. BUT I HAVE TO TELL YOU-- I'VE READ THE BIBLE MANY TIMES AND I THINK I HAVE A FAIRLY STRONG UNDERSTANDING OF MOST OF ITS MESSAGES...



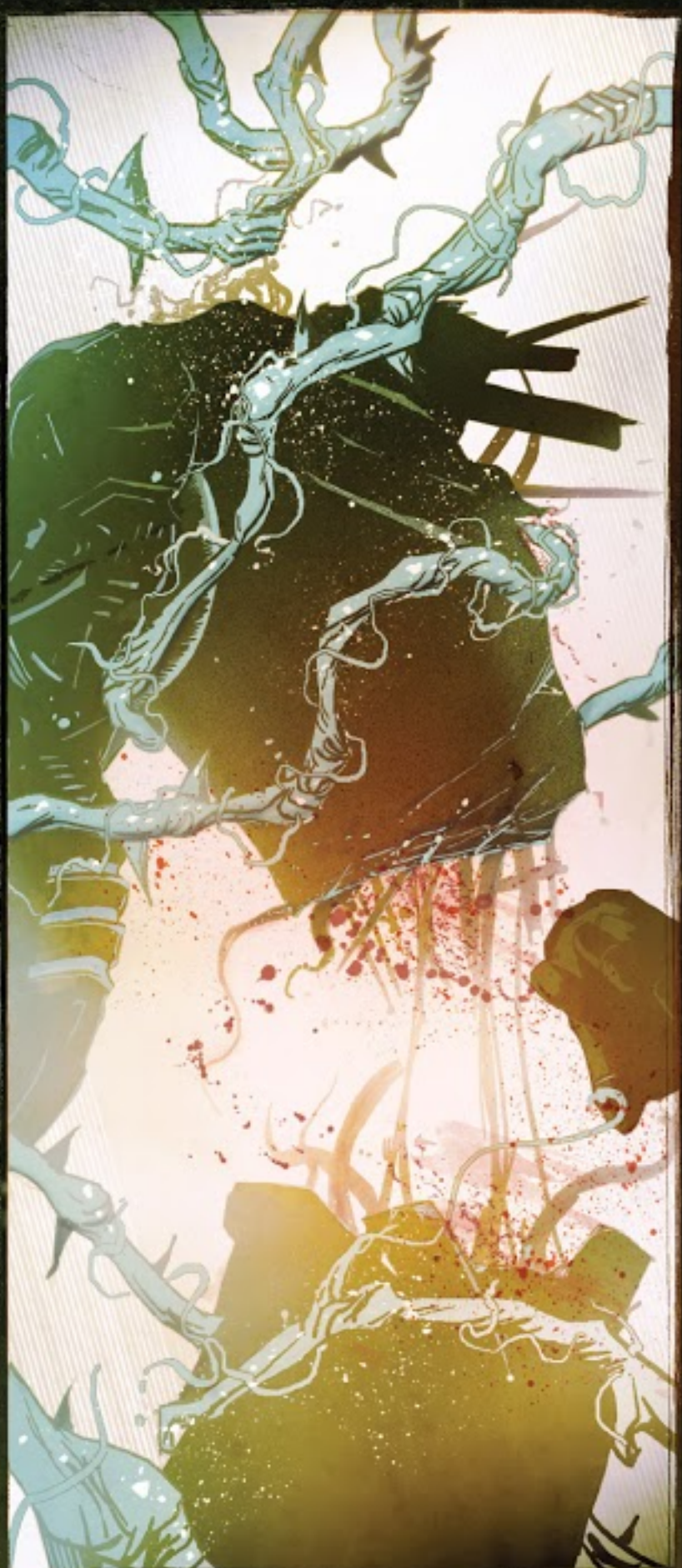
...BUT I'VE
NEVER READ THE
CHAPTER THAT SAYS
YOU SHOULD KIDNAP
A MAN, TAKE HIM
FROM HIS FAMILY AND
SLOWLY TORTURE
HIM FOR DAYS
UNTIL HE
DIES!

**I MISSED
THAT
VERSE!**



GOD'S
FORSAKEN
YOU NOT BECAUSE
YOU CAN'T FIND THE
EVIL. IT'S BECAUSE YOU
ARE THE EVIL! YOU'RE
JUST TOO INSANE
TO KNOW THE
DIFFERENCE!

SO WHEN
YOU GET TO
HELL-- TELL
THEM DANIEL
KILGORE IS
BACK!!



AND LET THEM
KNOW THEIR LITTLE
TRICKS ON ME DIDN'T
QUITE WORK OUT LIKE
THEY PLANNED!
TELL THEM I'M ONTO
THEIR SECRET...



THAT EVERY
TIME DOWNING
USES HIS POWERS
OF '**LIGHT**' TO
HEAL A PERSON... THE
COSTUME HAS BEEN
PLANTING A SEED
OF '**DARKNESS**'
IN EACH OF
THEM.

EVERYONE THAT
HE'S EVER HELPED--
**THEY'RE ALL
INFECTED!**



JIM.
I'M GLAD
YOU
FINALLY GOT
HERE.



WHAT
IS THIS
PLACE?



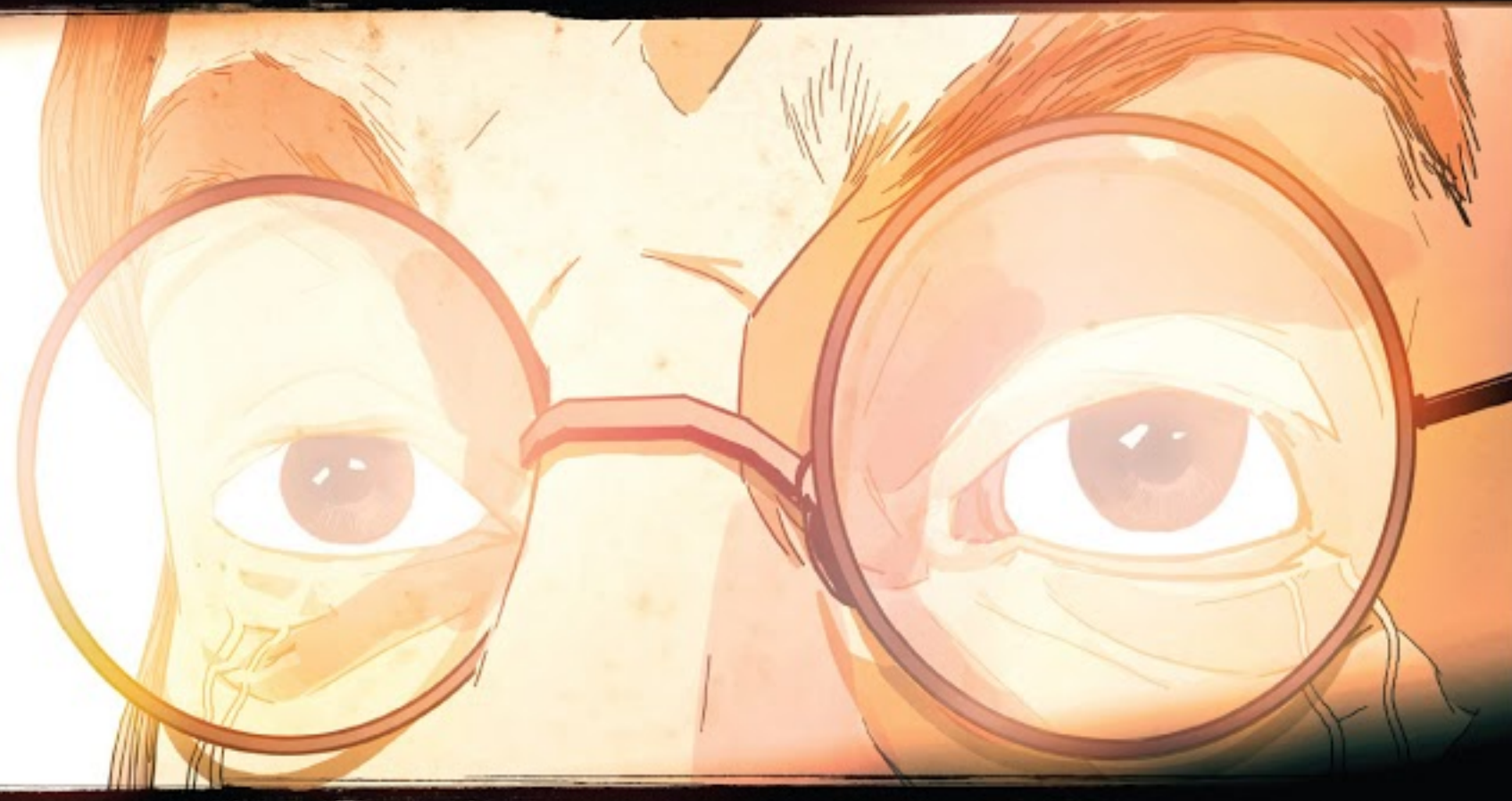
IT'S
WHATEVER
YOU WANT IT
TO BE.

YOU SHOULD
KNOW THAT--
SINCE YOU'VE BEEN
HERE BEFORE.
REMEMBER?

YOU
AND AL...
YOU CAME
TOGETHER.



I THOUGHT
THAT'S WHY YOU
SENT MY DAD
HERE, TOO.*



*See issue 208 -- Todd

"SO HE COULD SEE I'M OKAY. I KNOW THINGS HAVE BEEN HARD ON HIM SINCE... I WENT AWAY. MOM'S HAD A HARD TIME DEALING WITH IT TOO. I'M GLAD SHE NEVER FOUND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO ME THE FIRST TIME.

"I MEAN, SHE KNEW I'D FALLEN IN LOVE. BUT LIKE MY OTHER GIRLFRIENDS, SHE THOUGHT IT WOULDN'T LAST.



"BUT I TOLD HER THIS GIRL WAS DIFFERENT.



"SHE WAS VIBRANT. BEAUTIFUL. AND PASSIONATE!



"I WAS SO BLINDED WITH ROSE COLORED GLASSES I COULDN'T SEE HOW 'DIFFERENT' SHE WAS."





"AFTER THE TRANSFORMATION I JUST WANTED TO DISAPPEAR. MY FAMILY COULDN'T SEE WHAT I'D BECOME. THEY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.



"HELL, I BARELY DID. SO I HID AND I WAITED. WAITED FOR WHAT SEEMED LIKE FOREVER. BUT HE CAME.

"HOW OR WHY-- I STILL DON'T KNOW-- HE JUST CAME.



"HE WAS A SPAWN. SAID HE KNEW DAD. SAID HE WAS GOING TO RESCUE ME...TO MAKE ME NORMAL.



"AND HE DID."*

"I GOT TO GO BACK HOME. GOT TO SEE MOM, MY FAMILY, MY FRIENDS. IT WAS... PERFECT!"

"EVEN AT SCHOOL, WHERE
I WAS AN OUTSIDER AND
BULLIED ALL THE TIME--IT
FELT GOOD! *EVERYTHING
FELT GOOD!*

"WHY NOT? I'D BEEN GIVEN
A NEW LEASE ON LIFE. THIS
TIME I WAS GOING TO ENJOY
EVERY SECOND OF IT!

"CLASSES AND HOMEWORK
DIDN'T BUG ME ANYMORE.
WHAT OTHERS THOUGHT OF
ME--SLID OFF MY BACK.

"I WAS JUST BEING A
NORMAL, AVERAGE KID.

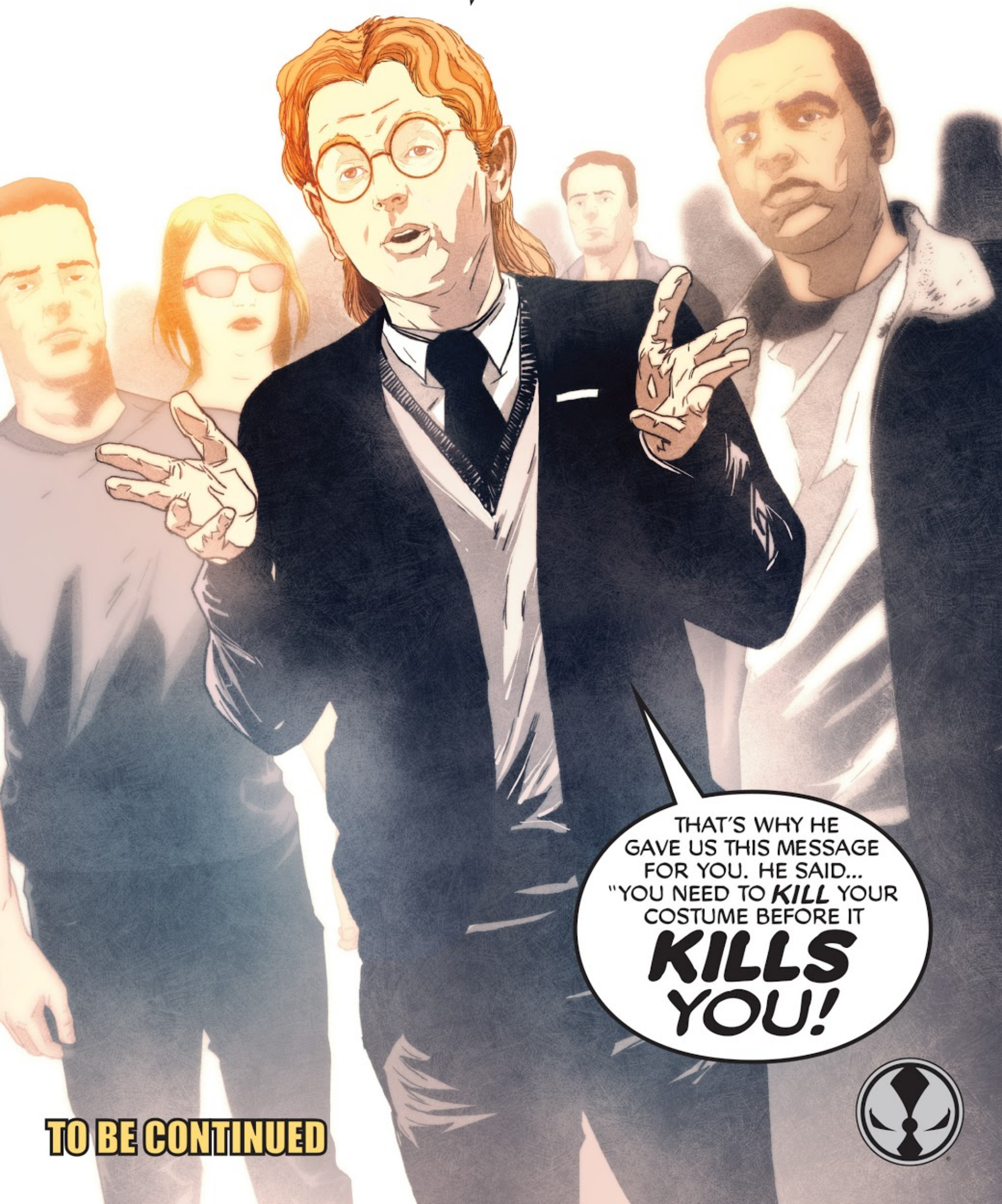
BLAM

"THEN I DIED."

MOM WAS DEVASTATED. DAD... HE'S BLAMED HIMSELF EVERY DAY FOR MY DEATH. TORTURING HIMSELF, THINKING HE COULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING DIFFERENT. SOMETHING BETTER. SO I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR SENDING HIM HERE TO SEE ME.

I THINK HE'S AT PEACE NOW KNOWING I'M OKAY.

BUT THE REASON I'VE TOLD YOU ALL THIS IS BECAUSE I 'SENSE' THINGS. MAYBE IT WAS THE COMBINATION OF BEING A VAMPIRE, BEING TOUCHED BY SPAWN, LIVING THEN DYING. I DON'T REALLY KNOW. BUT I'M HERE TO WARN YOU-- WE'RE ALL HERE TO WARN YOU-- BECAUSE AL SAID YOU WOULDN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.



THAT'S WHY HE GAVE US THIS MESSAGE FOR YOU. HE SAID... "YOU NEED TO **KILL** YOUR COSTUME BEFORE IT **KILLS YOU!**"

TO BE CONTINUED





image

235

DIGITAL
EDITION

SPAWN[®]



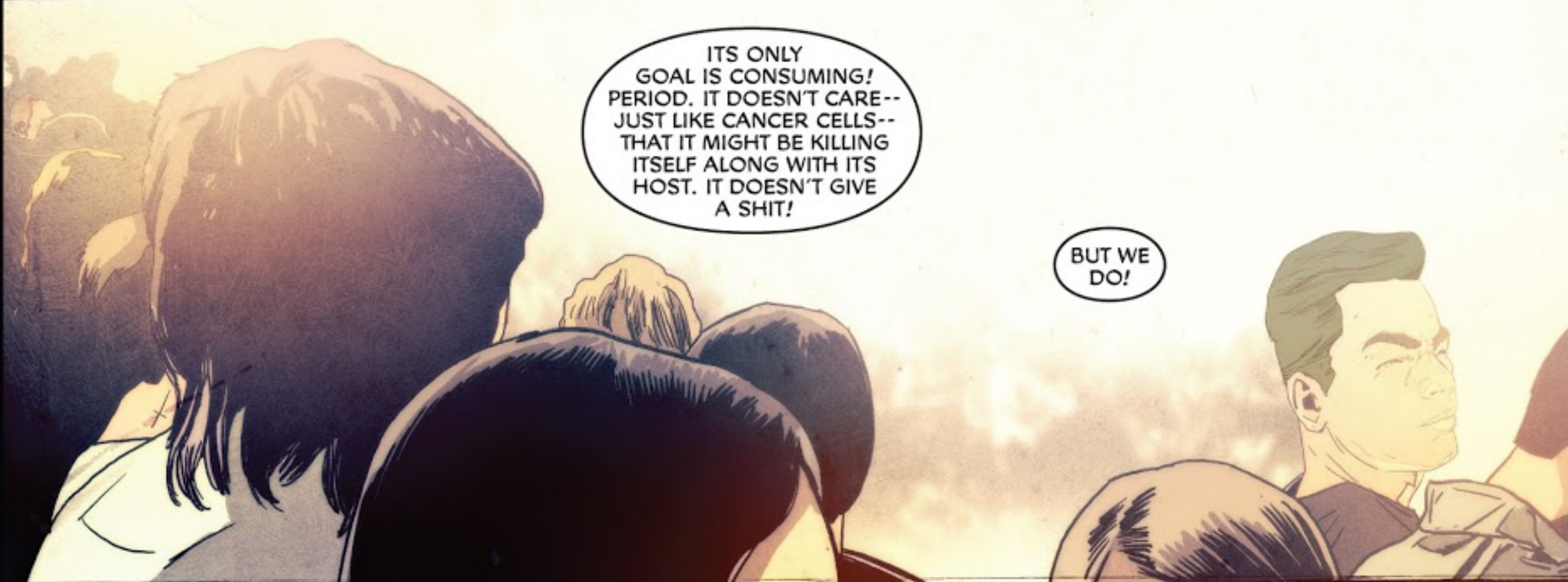
McFARLANE
+ CO.



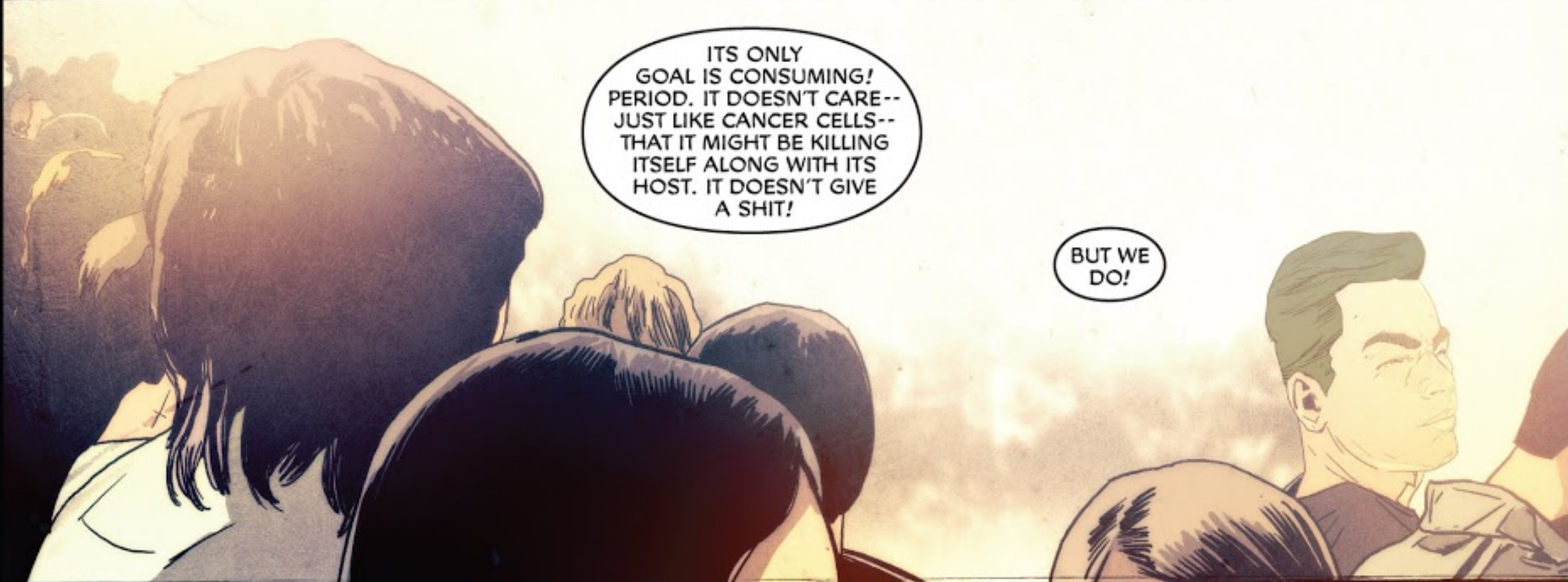
I'VE SEEN
IT BEFORE. WE
ALL HAVE. GIVEN
ANY CHANCE-- EVIL
WILL DESTROY
EVERYTHING IN
ITS PATH.



YOU. ME.
EVERYTHING! WHAT
MAKES TRUE EVIL **SO**
DANGEROUS IS THAT
IT DOESN'T CARE IF IT
SURVIVES IN THE
PROCESS!



ITS ONLY
GOAL IS CONSUMING!
PERIOD. IT DOESN'T CARE--
JUST LIKE CANCER CELLS--
THAT IT MIGHT BE KILLING
ITSELF ALONG WITH ITS
HOST. IT DOESN'T GIVE
A SHIT!



BUT WE
DO!



AND WE'RE NOT
ABOUT TO STAND
AROUND BECOMING
COLLATERAL DAMAGE
BECAUSE OF ITS
PSYCHOSIS.

SO IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHY I TOLD YOU ABOUT MY BACKGROUND*-- IT'S BECAUSE YOU AREN'T THE **ONLY ONE** TRYING TO SORT OUT YOUR LIFE! YOU SENT MY DAD HERE! BUT HE'S NOT **ONE OF US!** WHICH MEANS PART OF YOU MUST BE STUCK IN LIMBO TOO. THAT'S THE ONLY WAY YOU'D HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO SEND HIM HERE.

IF YOU'RE LIKE US YOU'LL HELP! SIMMONS TRIED... BUT FAILED. I THINK THAT'S WHY HE LEFT AND CAME BACK WITH YOU! HE WANTED US TO BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE YOU IF YOU EVER RETURNED. BECAUSE HE TOLD US YOU WOULDN'T REMEMBER **ANY OF IT!**

WAS HE RIGHT?

I KEEP HEARING THAT NAME-- AL SIMMONS. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM. SO, DO I REMEMBER MEETING HIM? NO! DO I KNOW HOW I GOT HERE? NO!

YES, YOU DO!

THINK! WHAT WAS THE LAST THING YOU DID?

I'M... NOT SURE.

STOP LYING TO YOURSELF!! SOMETHING DROVE YOU TO USE YOUR POWERS! WHAT WAS IT?

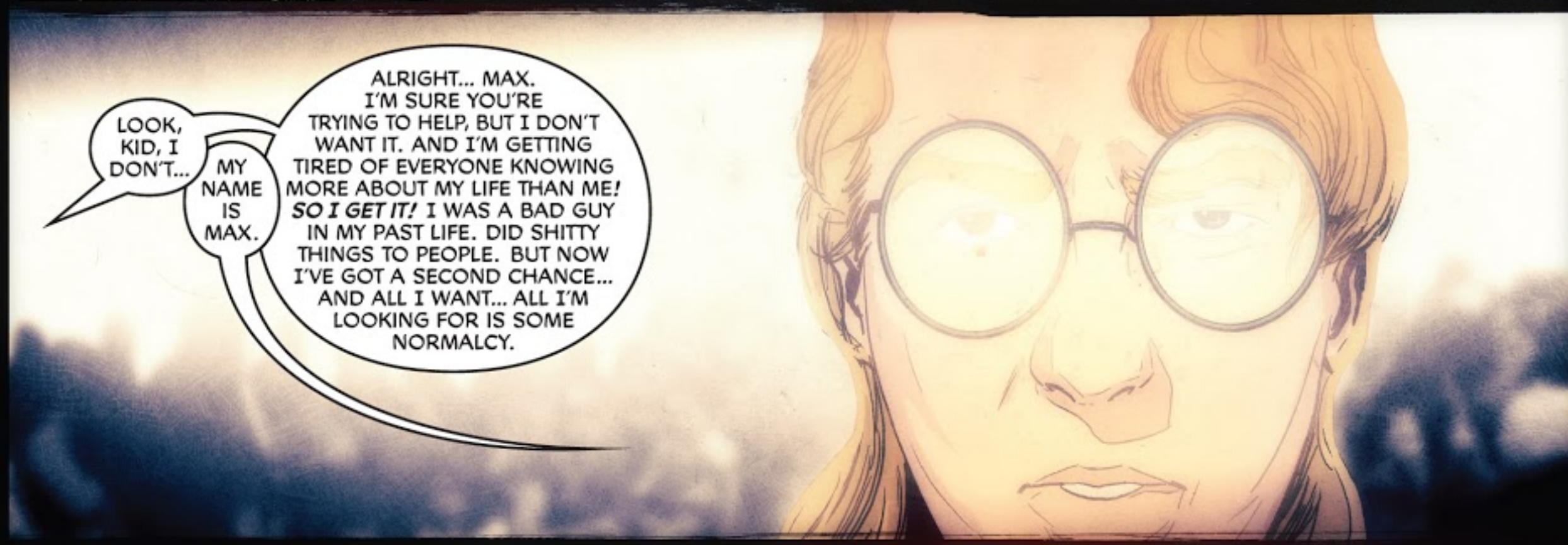
WHAT WAS IT?!





THE...
COSTUME.

THAT'S
RIGHT. YOUR
COSTUME.
WHAT DO YOU
KNOW ABOUT
IT?



LOOK,
KID, I
DON'T...

MY
NAME
IS
MAX.

ALRIGHT... MAX.
I'M SURE YOU'RE
TRYING TO HELP, BUT I DON'T
WANT IT. AND I'M GETTING
TIRED OF EVERYONE KNOWING
MORE ABOUT MY LIFE THAN ME!
SO I GET IT! I WAS A BAD GUY
IN MY PAST LIFE. DID SHITTY
THINGS TO PEOPLE. BUT NOW
I'VE GOT A SECOND CHANCE...
AND ALL I WANT... ALL I'M
LOOKING FOR IS SOME
NORMALCY.



LOOK
AROUND,
JIM. DOES ANY
OF THIS SEEM
NORMAL TO
YOU?



IT'S TOO LATE
TO LEAD AN AVERAGE,
SIMPLE LIFE. YOU'RE A SPAWN.
THOUGH I SUSPECT YOU ALREADY
KNOW THAT. SO WAS SIMMONS. THE
PROBLEM WITH THAT IS IT COMES
WITH MANY COMPLICATIONS. AND
EVERYTHING YOU SEE NOW
IS ONE OF THOSE
COMPLICATIONS.

DO YOU
LAUGH?

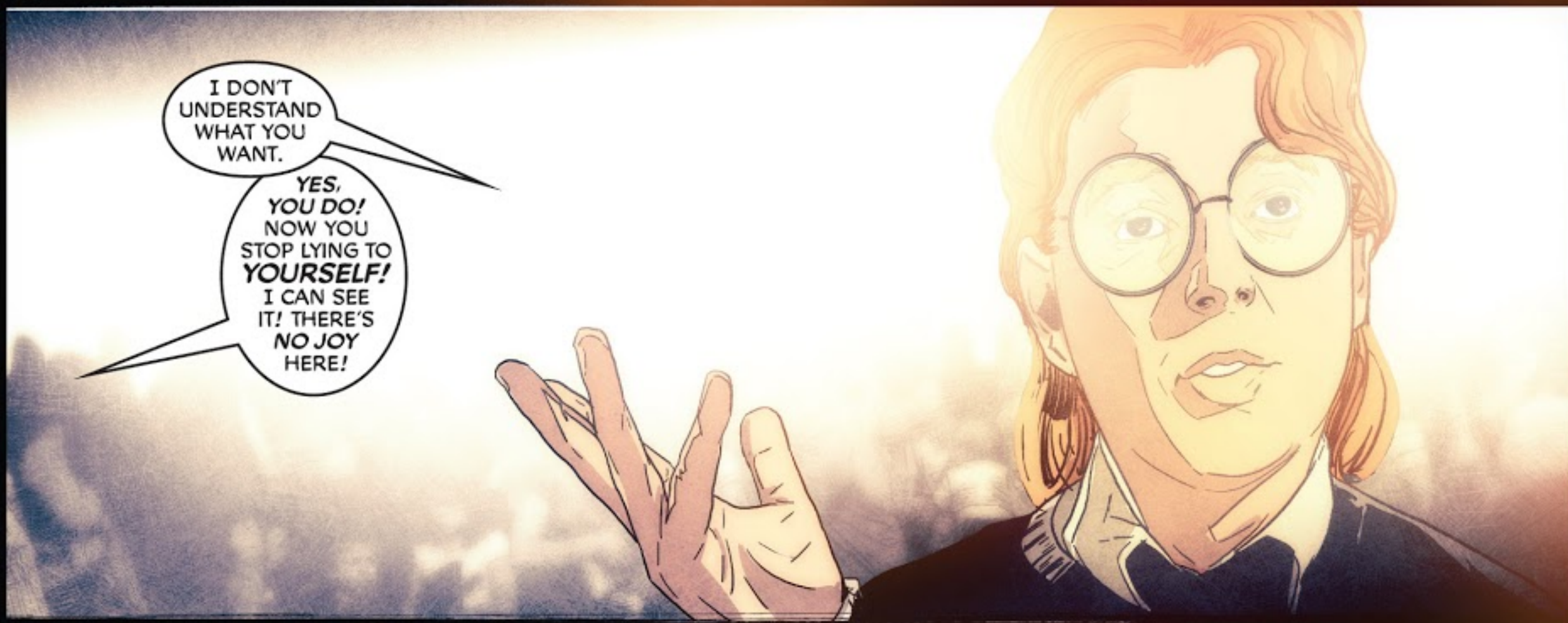


EXCUSE ME?

I'M ASKING...
IN THIS PLACE
WHEREVER WE
ARE-- DO ANY
OF YOU
LAUGH?

I...

YES OR NO?
IT'S A SIMPLE
QUESTION!



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT YOU
WANT.

YES,
YOU DO!
NOW YOU
STOP LYING TO
YOURSELF!
I CAN SEE
IT! THERE'S
NO JOY
HERE!



BUT SADLY, THAT'S
EXACTLY HOW I FEEL
NEARLY EVERY MINUTE SINCE
I'VE BEEN OUT OF MY COMA! SO
IF ANYONE CAN UNDERSTAND
WHY ALL I WANT IS TO FIGHT FOR
THE CHANCE TO JUST... **LAUGH**
AGAIN... IT SHOULD BE SOME-
ONE LIKE YOU! YOU AND
ALL YOUR FRIENDS.

YOU HAVE
TO BE AS
EXHAUSTED
AS I AM.



WE ARE. THAT'S
WHY WE'RE ASKING FOR
YOUR HELP. ALL OF US HAVE
BEEN HERE FOR A VERY LONG
TIME, TRYING TO FIGURE OUT
WHAT WE DID SO WRONG IN
OUR LIVES THAT WE NEEDED
TO END UP HERE IN THIS...
THIS LIMBO!

YOU KNOW
WHAT WE WANT? WE
WANT **OUR JUDGEMENT!**
WHY WON'T GOD GIVE US
THAT?! HEAVEN OR HELL-- WE'LL
ACCEPT EITHER CHOICE HE
MAKES FOR US! BUT THIS?! THIS
IS UNACCEPTABLE! SO ALL WE
HAVE IS THE HOPE WE'LL
SOMEDAY LEAVE.

YOU WANT
LAUGHTER?
JOY? WELL SO
DO WE!

YOU'RE
NOT THE ONLY
ONE WHO'S
LOST SOME-
THING.



WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?

LEAVE. WE NEED YOU TO LEAVE HERE.

I THOUGHT YOU WANTED MY HELP?

WE DO. BUT THE BEST WAY TO GET THAT IS FOR YOU TO LEAVE. GO BACK TO WHERE YOU CAME FROM. THEN DESTROY YOUR COSTUME AND ANYONE SEEKING TO PROTECT IT!

BECAUSE... THERE'S A MAN... AND IF HE EVER GETS HIS HANDS ON YOUR SYMBIOTE-- HE'LL COME HERE FIRST AND KILL US ALL.



YOU'RE SAYING SOMEONE WANTS TO SLAUGHTER THESE PEOPLE HERE? ALL OF THEM?

YES.



WHY?

WE'RE HIDING SOMETHING HE WANTS.

DOES HE HAVE A NAME?

THEY CALL HIM **BLUDD!**

BLUDD?!

JESUS...
I KNEW THAT
PRICK WAS BAD
NEWS!

BUT IF
HE'S COMING,
WHY DO YOU
WANT ME TO
LEAVE?

BECAUSE YOU'RE
NOT SAFE HERE. YOUR
COSTUME WANTS YOU TO
STAY BECAUSE BEING HERE
MAKES IT STRONGER. WITHOUT
THE FORCES OF HEAVEN OR
HELL TO INTERFERE, IT'LL GROW
FASTER AND STRONGER THAN
EVER BEFORE. THAT'S WHY
IT NEEDS YOU TO THINK
YOU'RE NOT
WEARING IT.

MY
COSTUME?
IT'S ON ME?
AND YOU CAN
SEE IT?

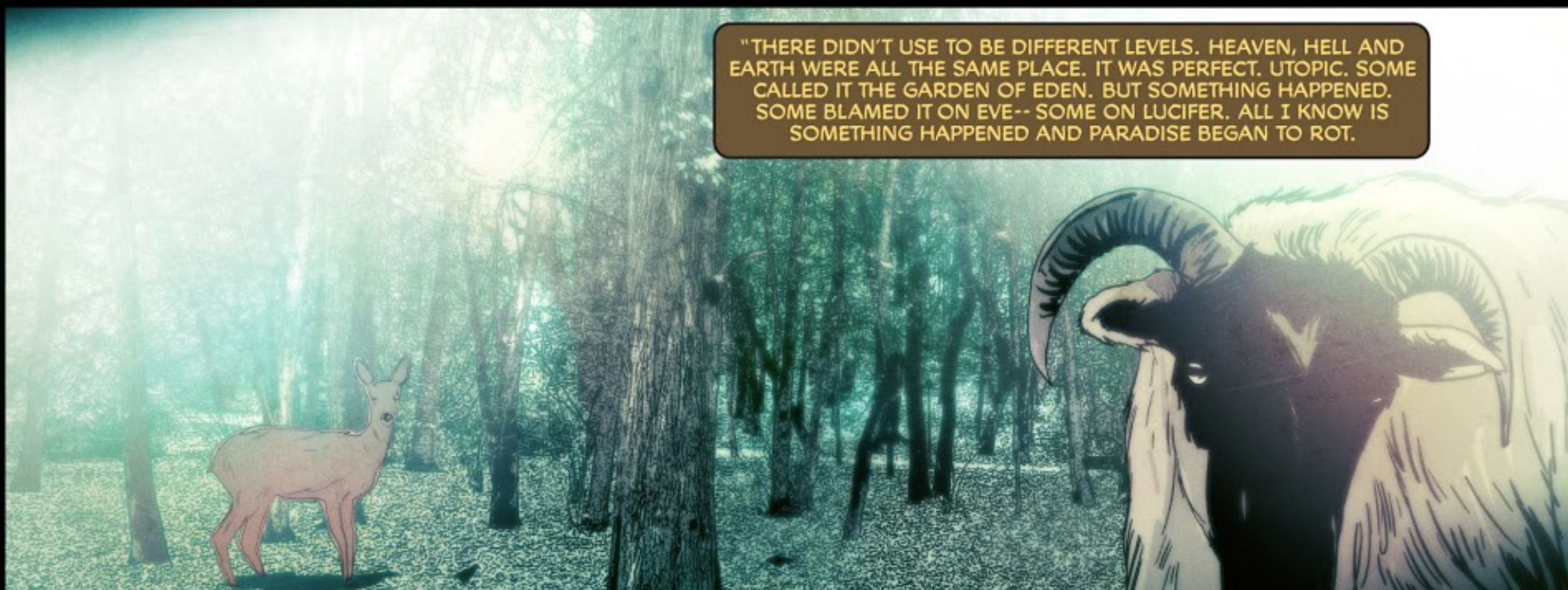
YES. THOUGH
IT'S ONLY UP TO YOUR
CHEST. BUT IT'LL SWALLOW
YOU SOON. THAT'S WHY EVERY-
ONE'S STARING AT YOU-- THEY'RE
WATCHING YOUR COSTUME, NOT
YOU. IF YOU LET IT CONTROL
YOU-- BLUDD WILL USE IT
AGAINST ALL OF US
EVENTUALLY.

BUT THE
ONLY WAY HE CAN
GET HERE IS THROUGH THE
COSTUME. AND HE KNOWS THAT!
WE WON'T STAND A CHANCE. SO YOU
WANT TO HELP? THEN KEEP BLUDD
AWAY FROM US. AND MAYBE IN
TIME GOD WILL REMEMBER HE'S
ABANDONED ALL OF
OUR SOULS.



HOW DO YOU KNOW HE WON'T FIND ANOTHER WAY HERE?

WE DON'T. WE'RE HOPING YOU'LL KILL HIM LONG BEFORE THAT. BUT YOU CAN'T IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST. AND SINCE WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME... I NEED YOU TO LISTEN.



"THERE DIDN'T USE TO BE DIFFERENT LEVELS. HEAVEN, HELL AND EARTH WERE ALL THE SAME PLACE. IT WAS PERFECT. UTOPIC. SOME CALLED IT THE GARDEN OF EDEN. BUT SOMETHING HAPPENED. SOME BLAMED IT ON EVE-- SOME ON LUCIFER. ALL I KNOW IS SOMETHING HAPPENED AND PARADISE BEGAN TO ROT.



"SIN. EVIL. GIVE IT WHATEVER NAME YOU WANT... MAN GAVE BIRTH TO IT. FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS THE GARDEN HAD SUSTAINED ALL LIFE, BUT WHEN ADAM AND EVE CAME, THAT'S WHEN THINGS WENT TO SHIT. OR MORE SPECIFICALLY, WHEN GOD GAVE MAN COGNIZANT THOUGHT IS WHEN IT ALL BEGAN TO FALL APART.

"WE JUST COULDN'T HELP OURSELVES. LUST. GREED. AND THE REST OF THE 'DEADLY SINS' CAME TO BE. THAT'S WHEN MAN BEGAN HIS QUEST FOR ETERNAL LIFE AND POWER. HE COULDN'T BE CONTENT TO ROAM THE EARTH LIKE THE ANIMALS, ONLY TAKING WHAT WAS NEEDED TO SUSTAIN HIMSELF.



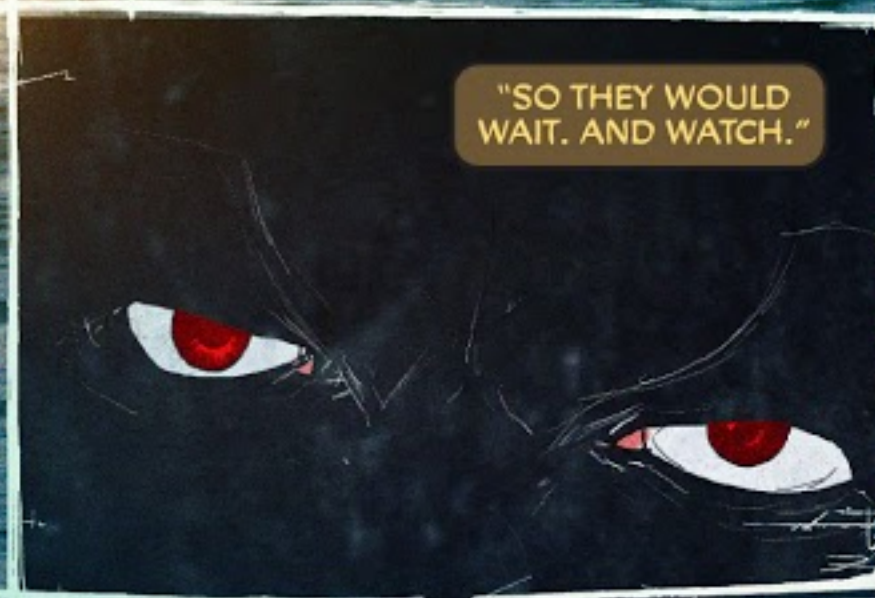
"NO. HE HAD TO HAVE MORE."



"OVER TIME THE TRUE FORM OF MAN TOOK SHAPE. BUT THERE WERE THOSE WHOSE HEARTS WERE DARKER THAN THE REST. WHO DID NOTHING BUT LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE WHAT THEY COULD FROM OTHERS."



"AND THE THINGS THEY COULDN'T HAVE... ONLY MADE THEM DESIRE IT MORE."



"SO THEY WOULD WAIT. AND WATCH."





"THEN THEY TOOK
WHAT THEY
WANTED!"



"WITHOUT
GUILT, OR
REMORSE.
BECAUSE
THEY FELT
NOTHING!"



"THEIR VICTIMS
DIDN'T HAVE THAT
SAME LUXURY!"

"YET AMONG ALL THESE
DEPRIVED, COLD
HEARTED MEN, ONE
STOOD OUT FROM ALL
THE OTHERS."



"HE DIDN'T HAVE A NAME THEN-- AT LEAST ONE ANYONE REMEMBERED-- BUT HE'D PROVEN MORE INTELLIGENT THAN THE REST, CRAVING AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THIS NEW WORLD. DURING ONE OF HIS QUESTS HE HEARD OF LILITH--THE 'FIRST VAMPIRE.'



"IN THAT MOMENT, HE BEGAN PLANNING TO STEAL HER POWERS.



"HE THOUGHT SAVAGING HER BODY WOULD ENSLAVE HER TO HIM, BUT IT WAS HER BLOOD HE WAS REALLY AFTER. THAT'S WHAT WOULD GIVE HIM HIS TRUE POWER. SO HE FORCED HER TO SHARE IT WITH HIM.

"TO MAKE A BOND BETWEEN THEM.



"THEN HE DID SOMETHING LILITH WASN'T PREPARED FOR..."

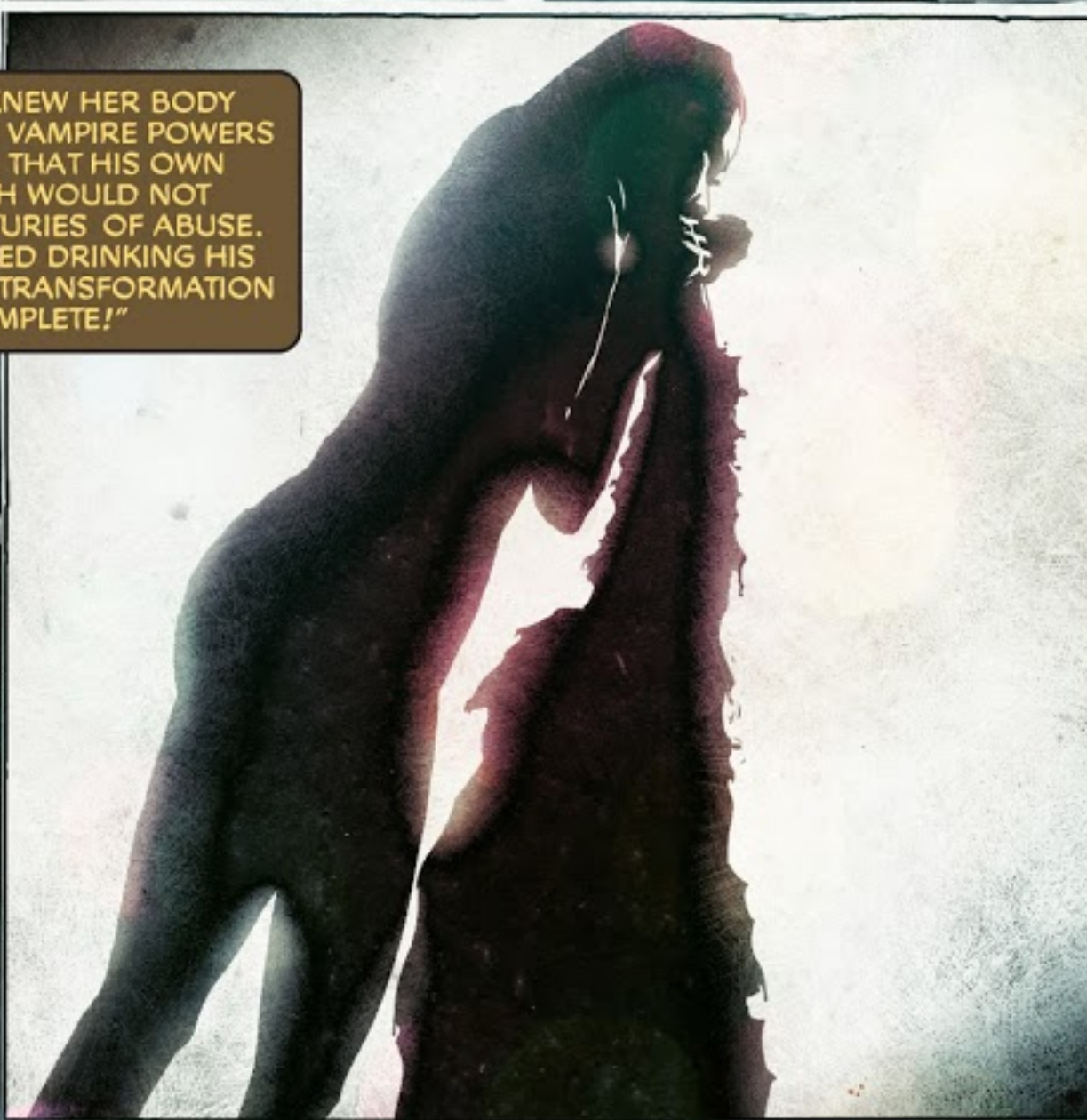




"HE BEGAN DRAINING
HIS OWN ENERGY
FORCE. ESSENTIALLY
KILLING HIMSELF--
AND TRANSFERRED IT
INTO LILITH'S BODY!"



"BECAUSE HE KNEW HER BODY
HAD HOUSED THE VAMPIRE POWERS
ALREADY AND THAT HIS OWN
MORTAL FLESH WOULD NOT
WITHSTAND CENTURIES OF ABUSE.
WHEN HE FINISHED DRINKING HIS
OWN BLOOD THE TRANSFORMATION
WAS COMPLETE!"



"IT'S WHERE HE GOT HIS NAME.
BLUDD!"

NOW ALL THIS TIME LATER YOUR COSTUME AND BLUDD HAVE SHOWN THEY SHARE A COMMON LINK. BOTH HAVE PROVEN THEY'RE WILLING TO DESTROY THEMSELVES, AS WELL AS OTHERS, IF IT SERVES THEIR END GOAL. THAT ACT IS THE VERY DEFINITION OF 'EVIL.'

I'M CONFUSED. THE BLUDD I KNOW IS A MAN.

NO, HE'S NOT. HE'S A CHANGE-LING!

HE CAN CHANGE SHAPES?

IF HE WANTS. BUT HE HASN'T. HIS ARROGANCE TELLS HIM HE'S INVULNERABLE. HE LOST THE LOOK OF LILITH BECAUSE HE KNEW CLOAKING HIMSELF AS A FEMALE WOULD BE A HINDRANCE. MEN RULED MOST OF EARTH THEN.

LET ME GUESS-- HE BEGAN BUILDING AN ARMY OF VAMPIRES.

WHY DO THAT?

QUITE THE OPPOSITE. HE BEGAN KILLING THE VAMPIRES.

BECAUSE BEFORE HE BUILT HIS OWN ARMY BLUDD WANTED TO MAKE SURE THERE WOULD NEVER BE ANOTHER VAMPIRE THAT WOULD EVER OPPOSE HIM. HE SPENT CENTURIES BUILDING HIS POWERS AND HUNTING DOWN EVERY LAST VAMPIRE THAT PRE-EXISTED HIM UNTIL HE WAS THE LAST LIVING VAMPIRE ON EARTH.

ONLY THEN DID HE BEGIN CREATING HIS OWN STRAIN OF VAMPIRES, IN WHICH EVERY ONE WOULD HAVE A PIECE OF HIS D.N.A. INSIDE THEM!

THAT'S WHEN HIS CIRCLE OF POWER REALLY GREW. GHENGIS KHAN. JACK THE RIPPER. THE NAZIS. IF IT WASN'T ACTUALLY HIM THROUGHOUT HISTORY-- IT WAS ONE OF **HIS CHOSEN!**

DON'T EVER FORGET THAT! SUSPECT EVERYONE YOU MEET. TRUST NO ONE!

HE WANTS MY COSTUME. I UNDERSTAND. BUT YOU HAVEN'T SAID WHY HE WANTS TO KILL EVERYONE HERE.

I TOLD YOU! WE'RE HIDING SOMETHING FROM HIM.

MUST BE SOMETHING IMPORTANT.

IT IS. **LILITH.** WE HAVE LILITH'S SOUL. BLUDD KNOWS SHE'S THE ONLY VAMPIRE HE DOESN'T CONTROL. WHEN HE TOOK OVER HER BODY HE WAS TOO NAÏVE TO WORRY ABOUT HER SOUL. SHE'S HERE. HAS BEEN FOR A VERY LONG TIME AND THAT PISSES BLUDD OFF TO NO END BECAUSE HE CAN'T GET HERE WITHOUT HELP.



YOUR
COSTUME IS
THAT HELP.

THAT'S WHY HE
WANTS IT SO BADLY. HE
THINKS HEAVEN'S HIDING HER--
WHICH, FOR NOW, IS GOOD FOR US-- IT
BUYS US TIME. BUT IF HE EVER BREACHES
HEAVEN HE'LL FIND OUT WHERE SHE
REALLY IS AND THAT'S WHEN HE'LL
THROW ALL HE HAS AT STEALING--
THEN CONTROLLING--
YOUR COSTUME.



RIGHT
NOW HE
WANTS YOUR
COSTUME
BECAUSE HE
THINKS IT'LL BRING
HIM MORE POWER.
IN REALITY IT'LL
BRING HIM LILITH.
IF HE GETS
HER... GOD
SAVE US
ALL!

BUT YOU
NEED TO GO!
NOW!



WHAT...?
I CAN HELP
THOUGH.



NO!
NOT
HERE!

GET
OUT! YOUR
COSTUME... IT'S
ALMOST
COVERING
YOU!



**FIGHT
IT!** WITH
EVERYTHING
YOU HAVE THE
SECOND YOU
CAN SEE
IT!

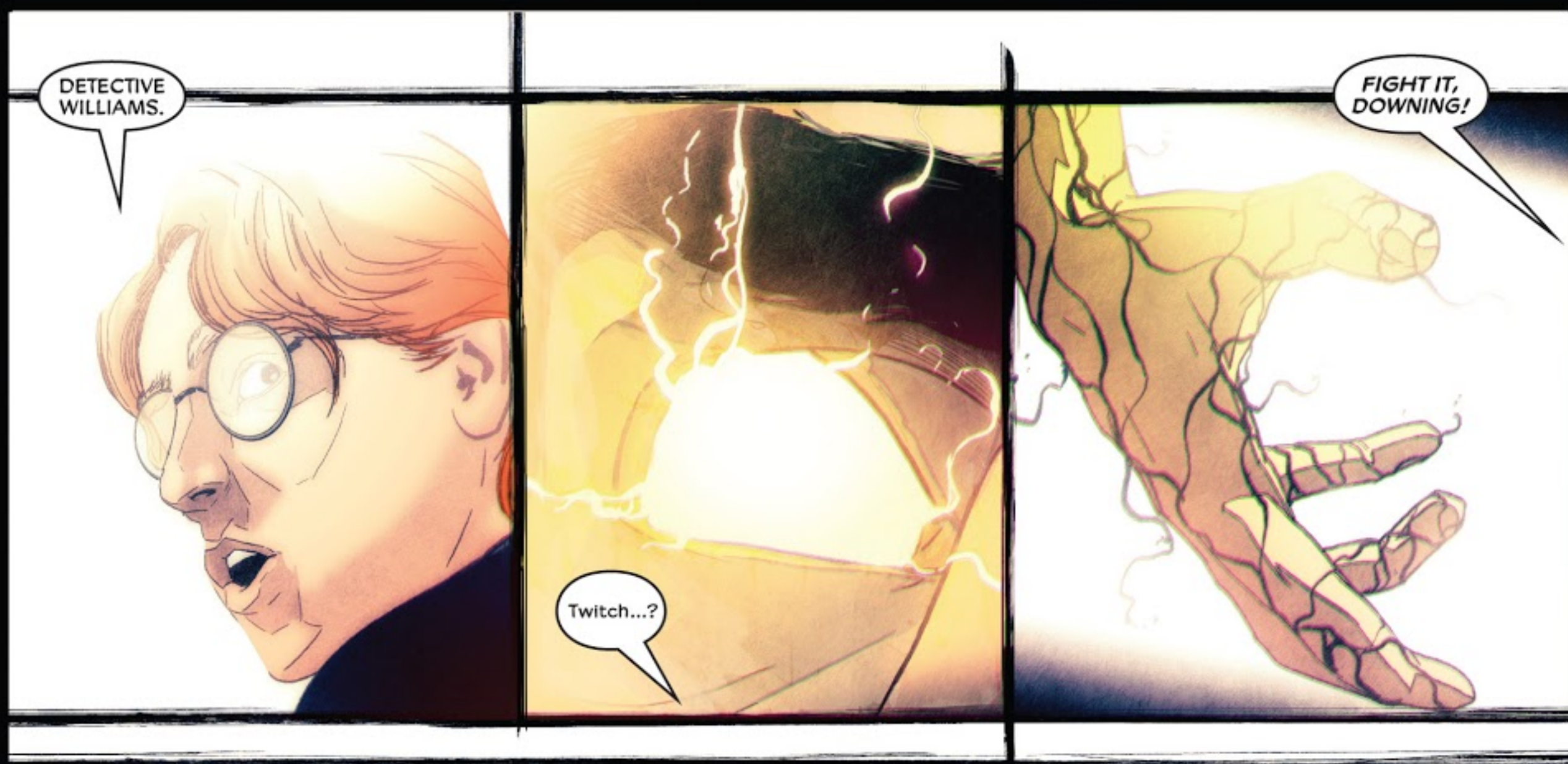


MY
DAD
CAN HELP
YOU
LATER.



YOUR
DAD?
WHO'S
HE?

HOW?
HOW DO
I GET
BACK?

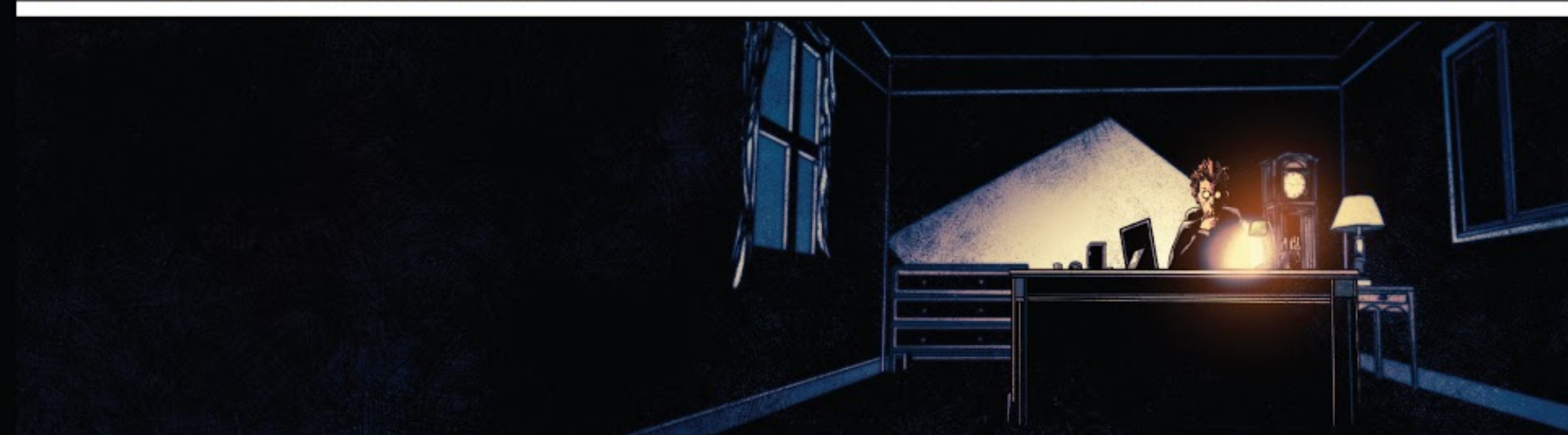
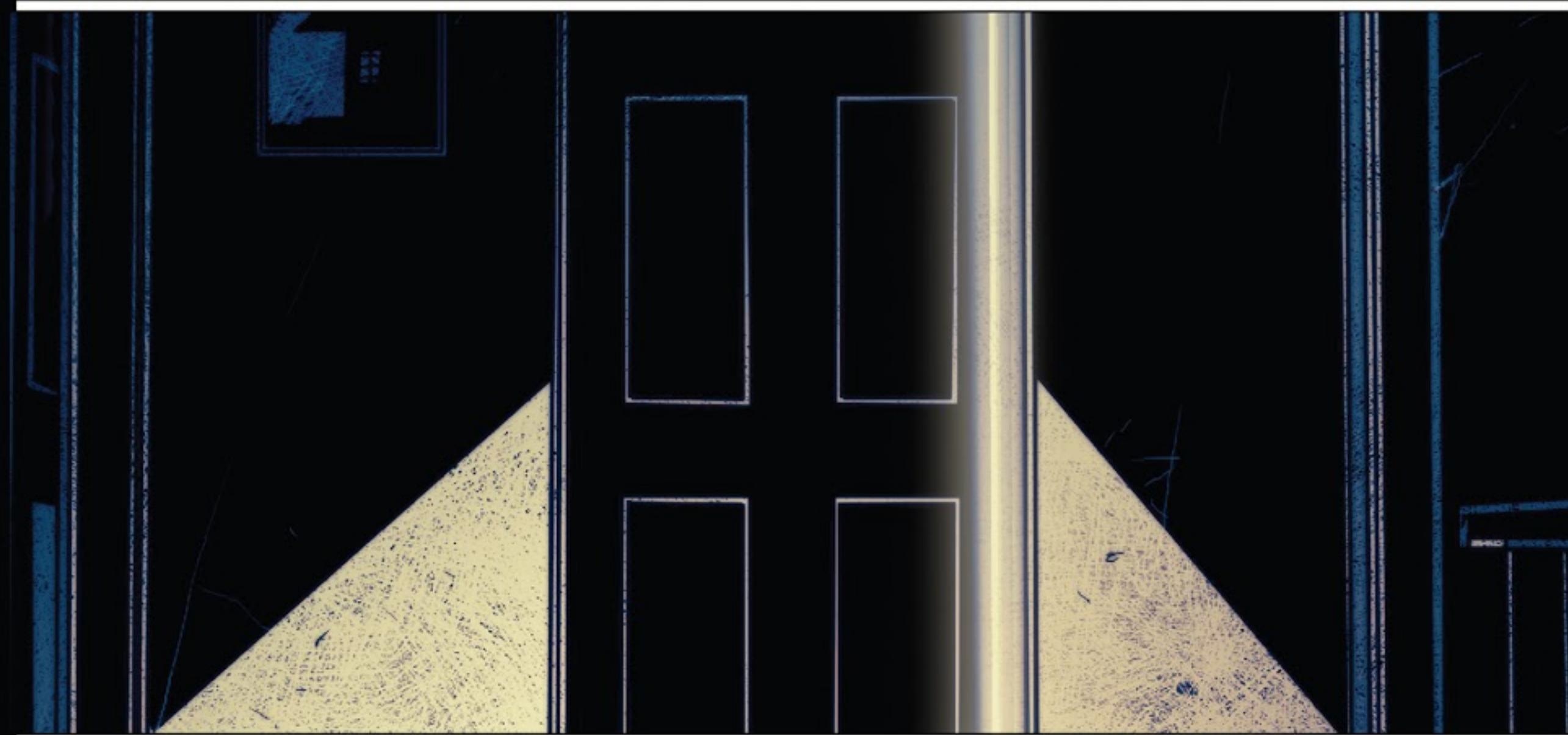


"YOU'RE IN CONTROL!"

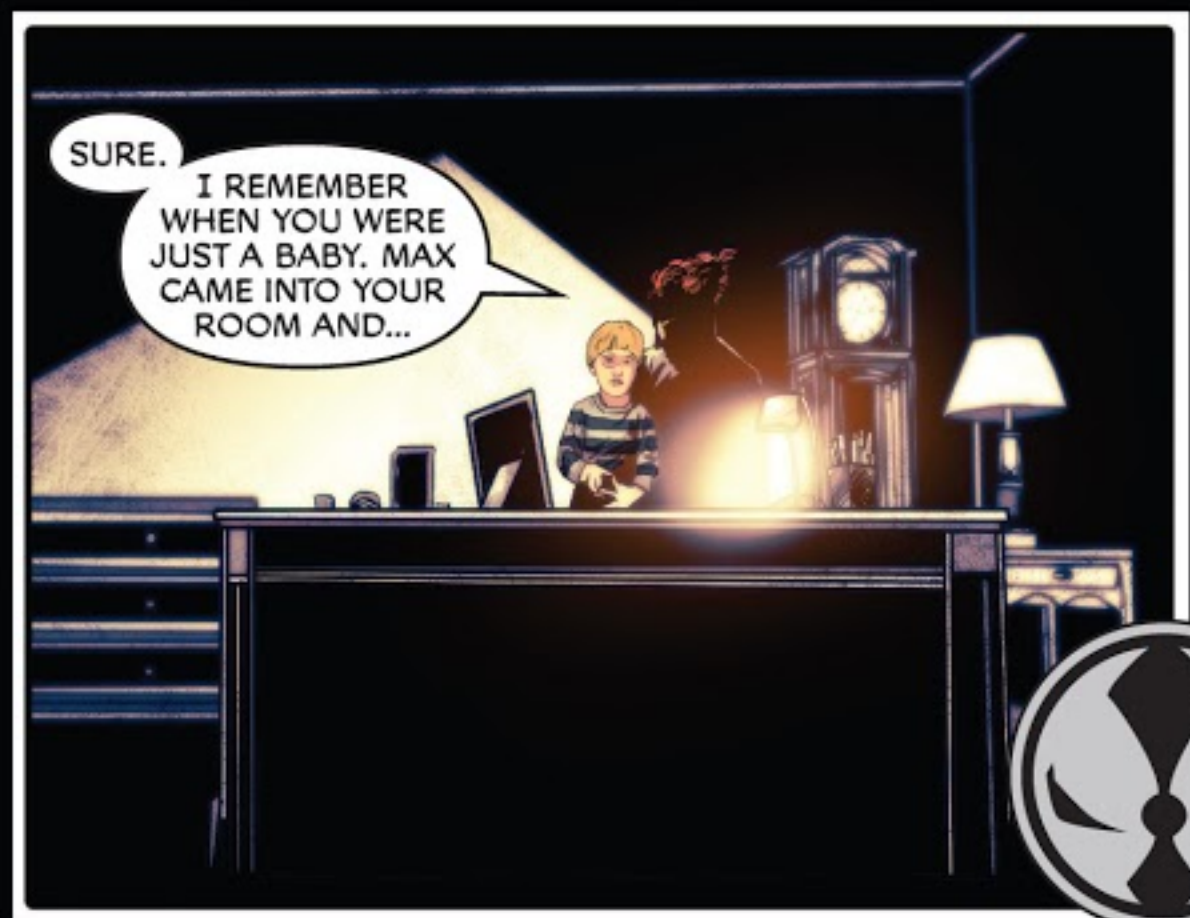
**"IT BROUGHT YOU HERE!! GODAMMIT--
NOW MAKE IT TAKE YOU BACK!!"**









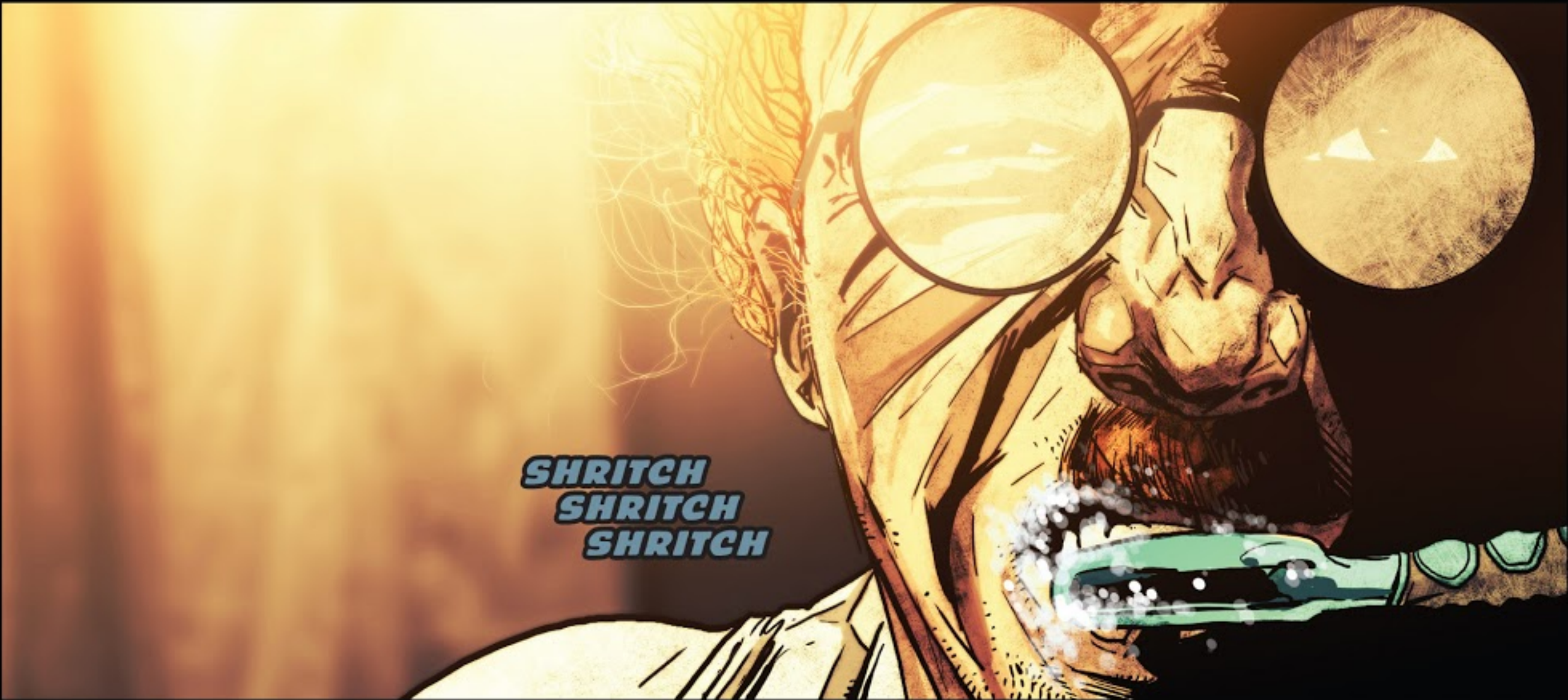
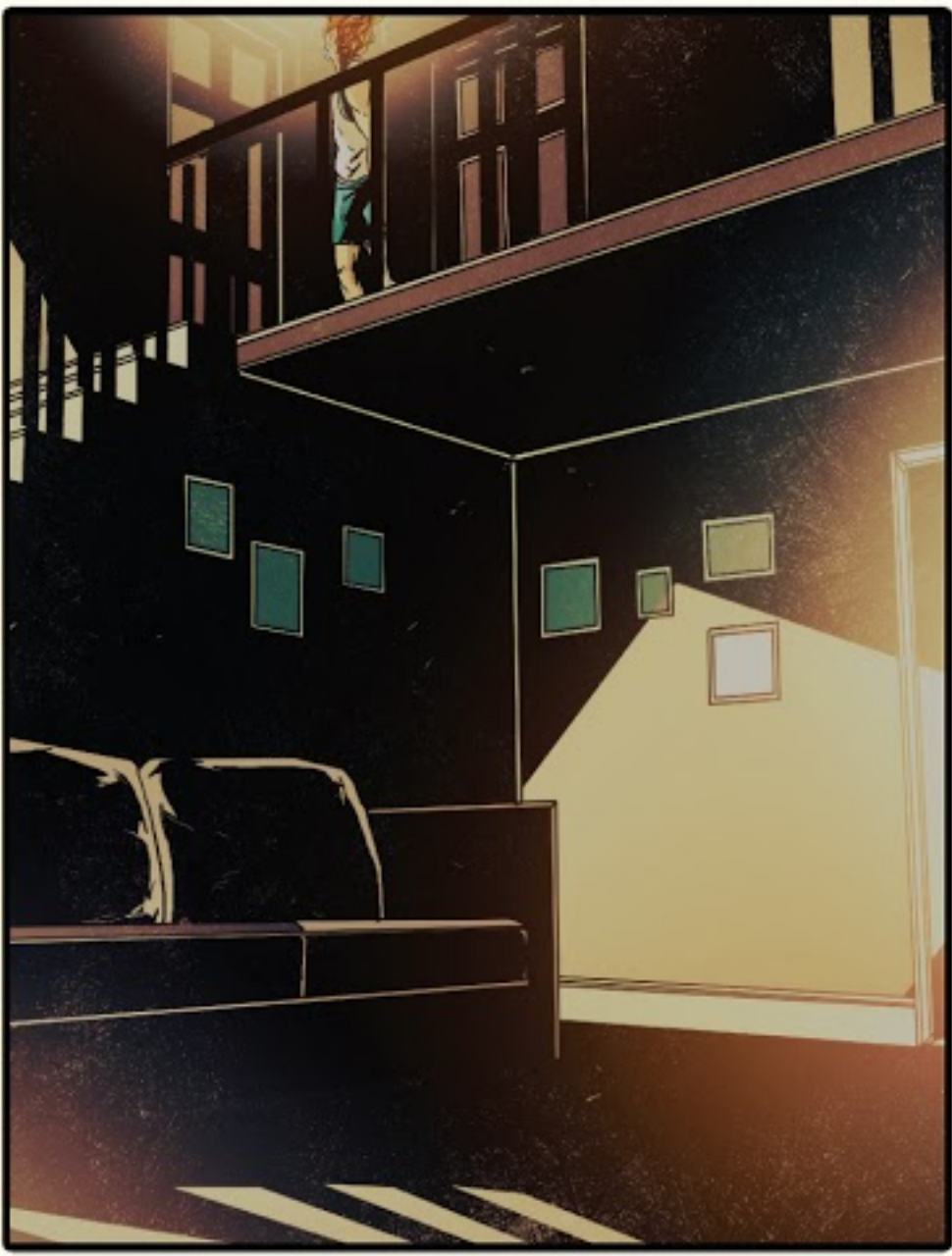


SPAWN

BATTLE FOR THE COSTUME

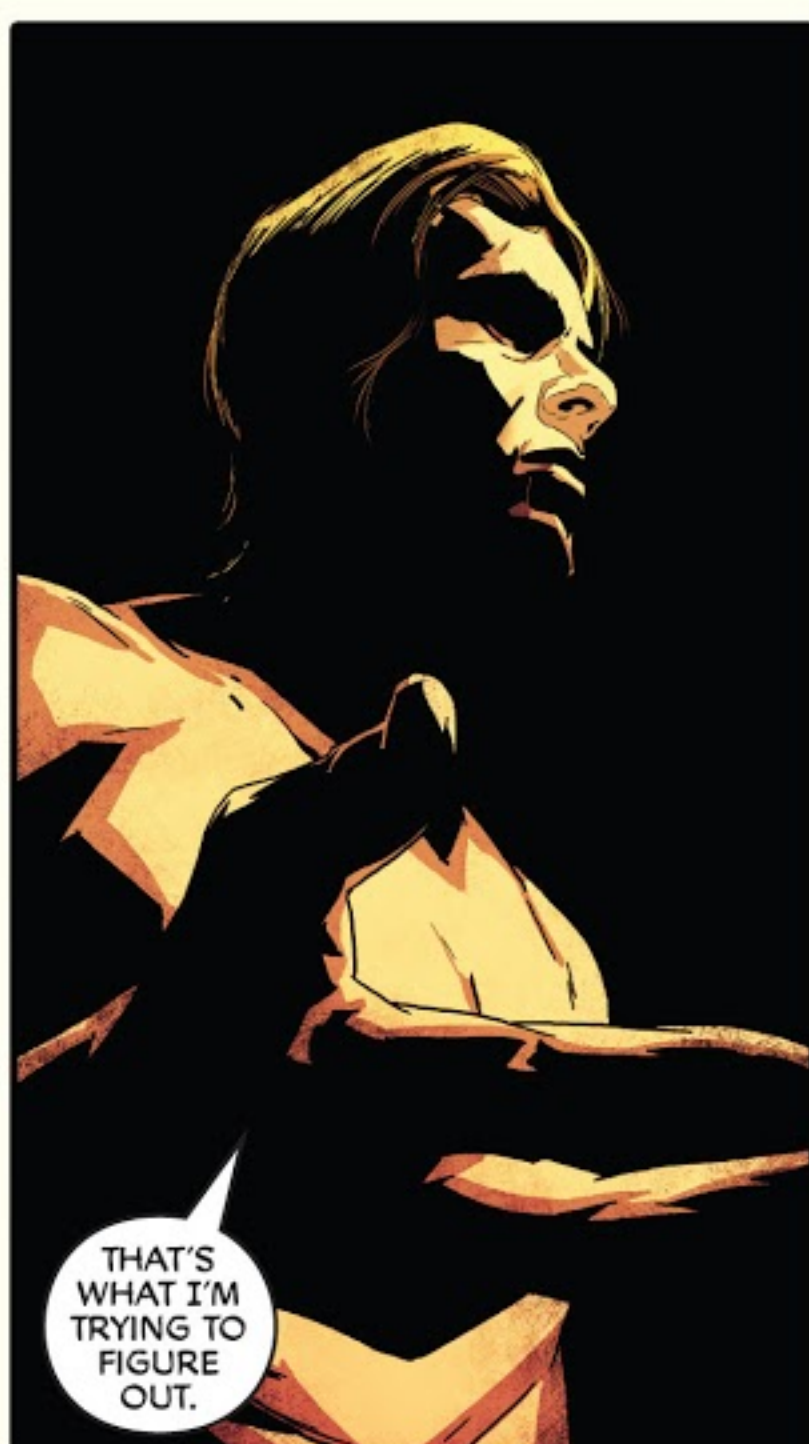


5:15 A.M.





Uh?!





NEVER MIND. IT WAS THE START OF A BAD JOKE. SO-- THERE'S NOTHING YOU RECALL THAT'S GIVEN YOU YOUR SUDDEN URGE TO HARASS ME?

A DREAM... MAYBE. BUT IT WAS JUST A BUNCH OF BRIGHT LIGHTS.



LET ME ASK YOU. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MY COSTUME?



IN WHAT WAY?



IN ANY WAY. I'VE BEEN FIGHTING IT. TRYING TO SUPPRESS IT. LIKE A HEADACHE THAT WON'T GO AWAY.



JUST LIKE SOME KID IN MY DREAM. I THINK HE WAS WARNING ME ABOUT MY COSTUME.

A KID?

WHAT COLORS WERE THOSE BRIGHT LIGHTS?



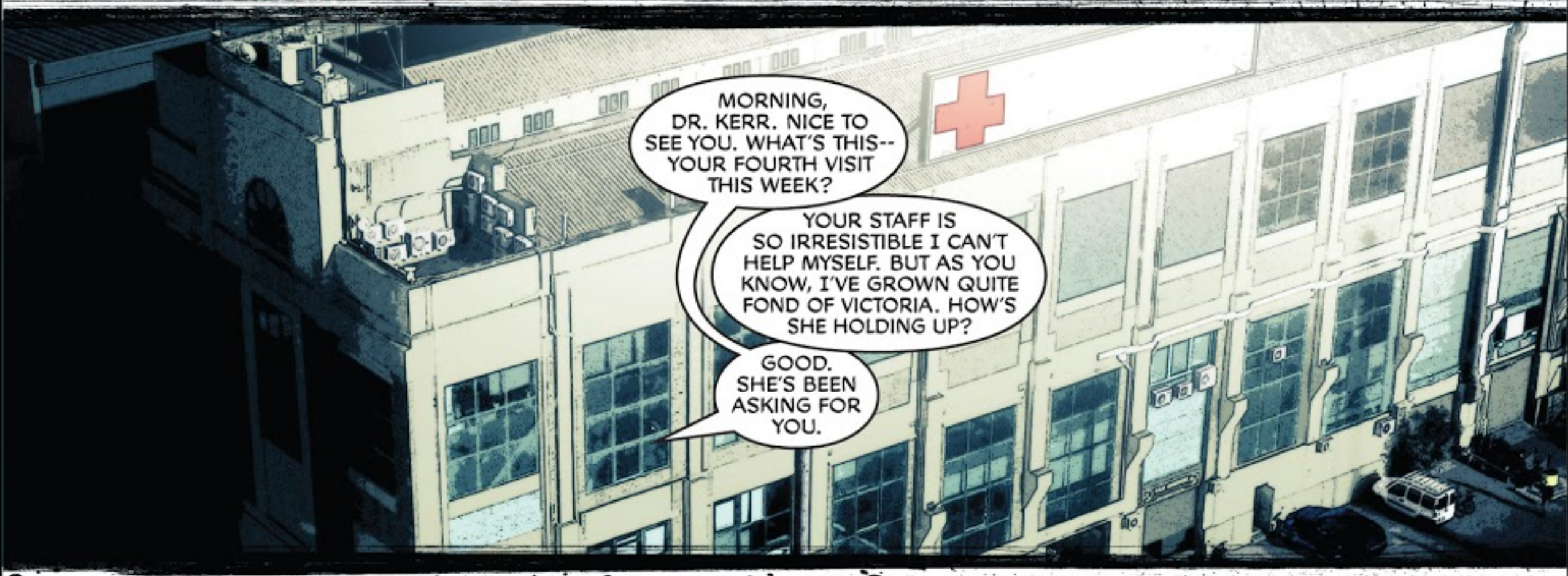
IN MY DREAM?

YES!

WHITE.

WAS EVERYTHING WHITE? EVERYTHING AROUND YOU?!





MORNING, DR. KERR. NICE TO SEE YOU. WHAT'S THIS-- YOUR FOURTH VISIT THIS WEEK?

YOUR STAFF IS SO IRRESISTIBLE I CAN'T HELP MYSELF. BUT AS YOU KNOW, I'VE GROWN QUITE FOND OF VICTORIA. HOW'S SHE HOLDING UP?

GOOD. SHE'S BEEN ASKING FOR YOU.



GOOD MORNING, VICTORIA.



THE NURSE SAID THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANTED TO TELL ME.



I HOPE THIS IS WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT.*





I MUST
ADMIT...

...I'M IMPRESSED
BY YOUR DISGUISE.
PASSING YOURSELF OFF AS A
PHYSICIAN MUST HAVE TAKEN
SOME THOUGHTFUL PLANNING.
HOW ELSE COULD YOU HAVE
BUILT ENOUGH TRUST TO BE
ABLE TO TRANSFER YOUR
'SPECIAL' PATIENT SO
FAR AWAY?

AND TO HAVE
OTHERS VOUCH FOR YOUR
MEDICAL CREDENTIALS, OR TO
GET SOME TO CREATE AN ENTIRE
PERSONA-- EVEN ON THE INTERNET
IF THEY WANTED TO SEARCH FOR
YOU-- SIMPLY BRILLIANT! I HAVEN'T
GIVEN YOU ENOUGH CREDIT FOR
HOW DECEITFUL YOU
CAN BE.

I
APOLOGIZE...



I WON'T
MAKE THAT
MISTAKE
AGAIN.



NOW... DO
ME A FAVOR
AND DROP THE
ILLUSION.

I CAN'T
STAND THOSE
WHO AREN'T
COMFORTABLE
IN THEIR OWN
SKIN.



HA! THAT'S
CALLING THE
KETTLE BLACK,
ISN'T IT?

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?

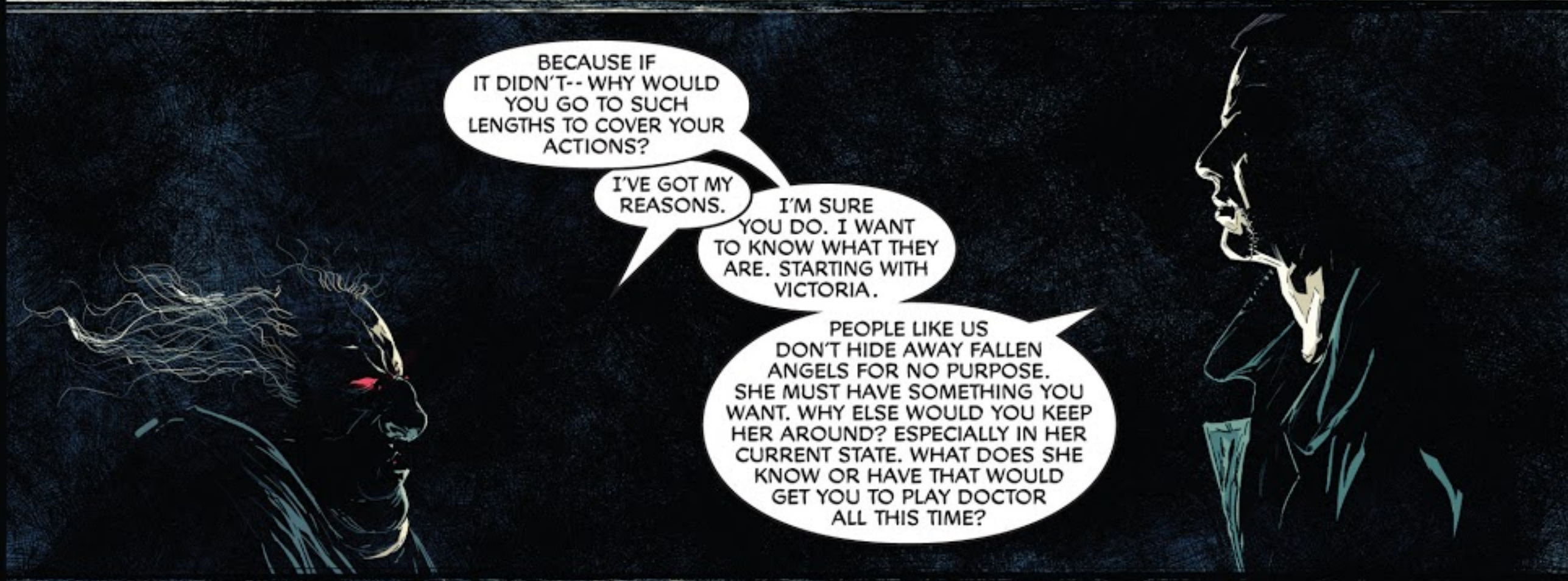
HONESTY.
LET'S START WITH
THAT. BECAUSE AS MUCH
AS WE LIKE GETTING ON
EACH OTHER'S NERVES
I ALWAYS FELT WE HAD
A FEW COMMON
GOALS.



SO I DON'T
KNOW HOW I'M SUPPOSED
TO REACT TO WHAT APPEARS
TO BE SOME SORT OF HIDDEN
AGENDA. NOT THAT I'M AGAINST
AGENDAS! I JUST DON'T LIKE
THEM WHEN THEY'RE AIMED
AT ME WITH SUCH
DISHONESTY.

THIS
HAS *NOTHING*
TO DO WITH
YOU, BLUDD!

YOU'RE
WRONG. IT HAS
EVERYTHING TO DO
WITH ME.



BECAUSE IF
IT DIDN'T-- WHY WOULD
YOU GO TO SUCH
LENGTHS TO COVER YOUR
ACTIONS?

I'VE GOT MY
REASONS.

I'M SURE
YOU DO. I WANT
TO KNOW WHAT THEY
ARE. STARTING WITH
VICTORIA.

PEOPLE LIKE US
DON'T HIDE AWAY FALLEN
ANGELS FOR NO PURPOSE.
SHE MUST HAVE SOMETHING YOU
WANT. WHY ELSE WOULD YOU KEEP
HER AROUND? ESPECIALLY IN HER
CURRENT STATE. WHAT DOES SHE
KNOW OR HAVE THAT WOULD
GET YOU TO PLAY DOCTOR
ALL THIS TIME?

YOU WANT
HONESTY? HOW'S THIS...

**GO F#CK
YOURSELF!**

YOU KNOW
EXACTLY WHY I'M
DOING THIS! SOMEONE
SENT HER AT THE EXACT MOMENT
DOWNING SNAPPED OUT OF HIS
COMA. ALMOST LIKE THEY KNEW
IT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN!
YOU KNOW WHAT
THAT MEANS?

GOD'S
AFRAID.

EXACTLY!

MY BET IS HE
WAS TRYING TO RECRUIT
DOWNING SO HE COULD GET
HIS HANDS ON HIS COSTUME.
GOD'S AWARE OF THE SAME
THING WE ARE--WHOEVER
CONTROLS THE SUIT RULES
EVERYTHING!

I WASN'T
ABOUT TO GIVE HIM
THE CHANCE TO DO
THAT. SO I HAD TO
IMPROVISE...
QUICKLY!*



WHAT'S
THE DOCTOR
THING
ABOUT?

BECAUSE SHE
WAS GONE WHEN I
WENT BACK FOR HER. THE
AUTHORITIES PROBABLY PICKED
HER UP. AND I DIDN'T THINK
STEALING A WOUNDED WOMAN
FROM A HOSPITAL WOULD SHOW
GREAT SUBTLETY. TOO MANY
QUESTIONS WOULD HAVE
BEEN ASKED AND I DIDN'T
KNOW WHAT SHE HAD
TOLD ANYONE.



SO YOU
THOUGHT-- IN SPITE OF
HER INSANITY-- SHE COULD
HAVE SOMETHING
TO TELL YOU?

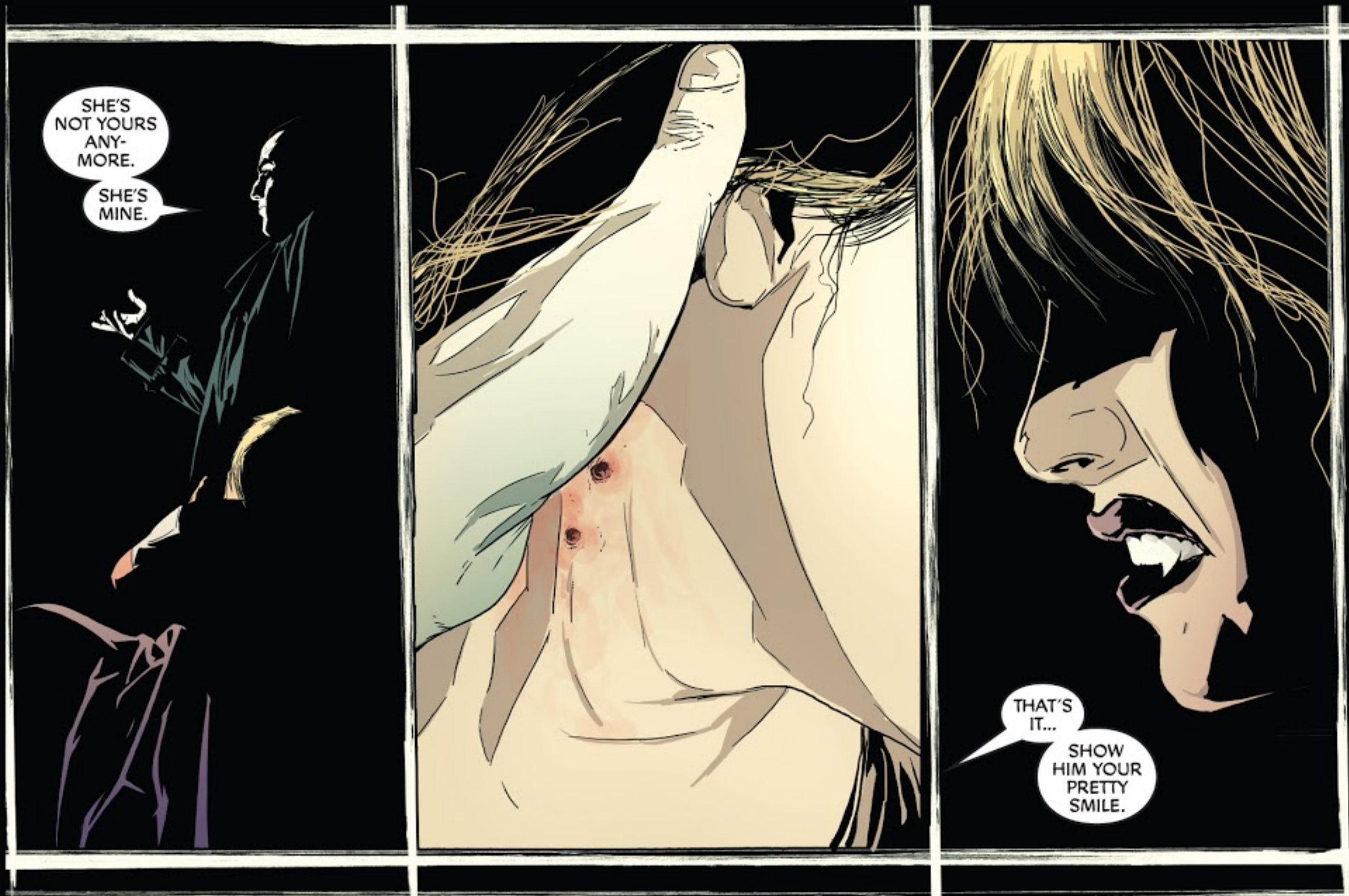
AND DURING
ALL THAT TIME IT HADN'T
CROSSED YOUR MIND THAT
I'VE BEEN BUILDING A FORTRESS
AROUND ONE OF GOD'S '**DEAD
ZONES**'? THE VERY PLACE SHE
MIGHT HAVE COME FROM? WHAT'S SO
DISHEARTENING TO ME IS THAT IF WE
ACTUALLY WORKED TOGETHER WE
COULD DO SOME REAL DAMAGE
TO HEAVEN'S FRONT. BUT
YOU'RE NOT CAPABLE OF THAT,
ARE YOU? SHARING
POWER?

THAT'S
WHY I'M
HERE.

YOU SEE--
VICTORIA AND
I CAME TO AN
UNDER-
STANDING.



WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?





FOOL!
DO YOU
KNOW WHAT
YOU'VE
DONE?

SHE'S
RUINED! NOW
NEITHER OF US
WILL GET WHAT
WE WANT.

THAT'S WHAT
HAPPENS WHEN
YOU CON ME. YOU
CAME TO ME FIRST--
REMEMBER THAT? YOU
WERE THE ONE THAT
SAID WE COULD TAKE
DOWN THIS NEW
SPAWN AND STAND
UP TO MALEBOLGIA
IF WE STOOD
TOGETHER.



BUT YOU NEVER
MEANT IT, DID YOU? YOU
ONLY WANTED TO USE ME AND MY
ARMY TO HELP ELIMINATE A FEW OF
YOUR ENEMIES THAT YOU COULDN'T
HANDLE ALONE. AND ONCE THEY WERE
GONE YOU WERE GOING TO TURN
ON ME BECAUSE YOU WANT ALL
THE GLORY FOR YOURSELF.
DON'T YOU?

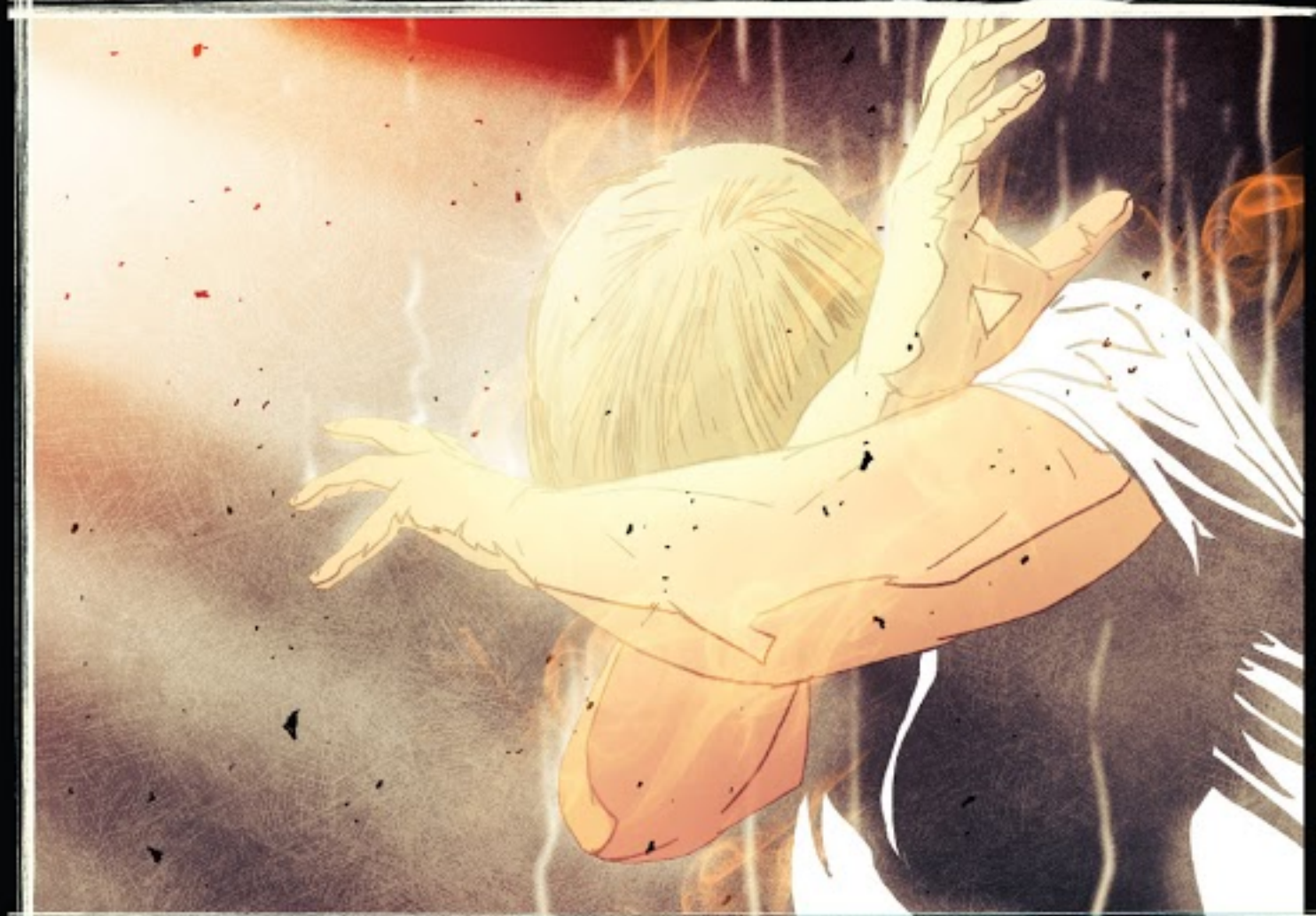


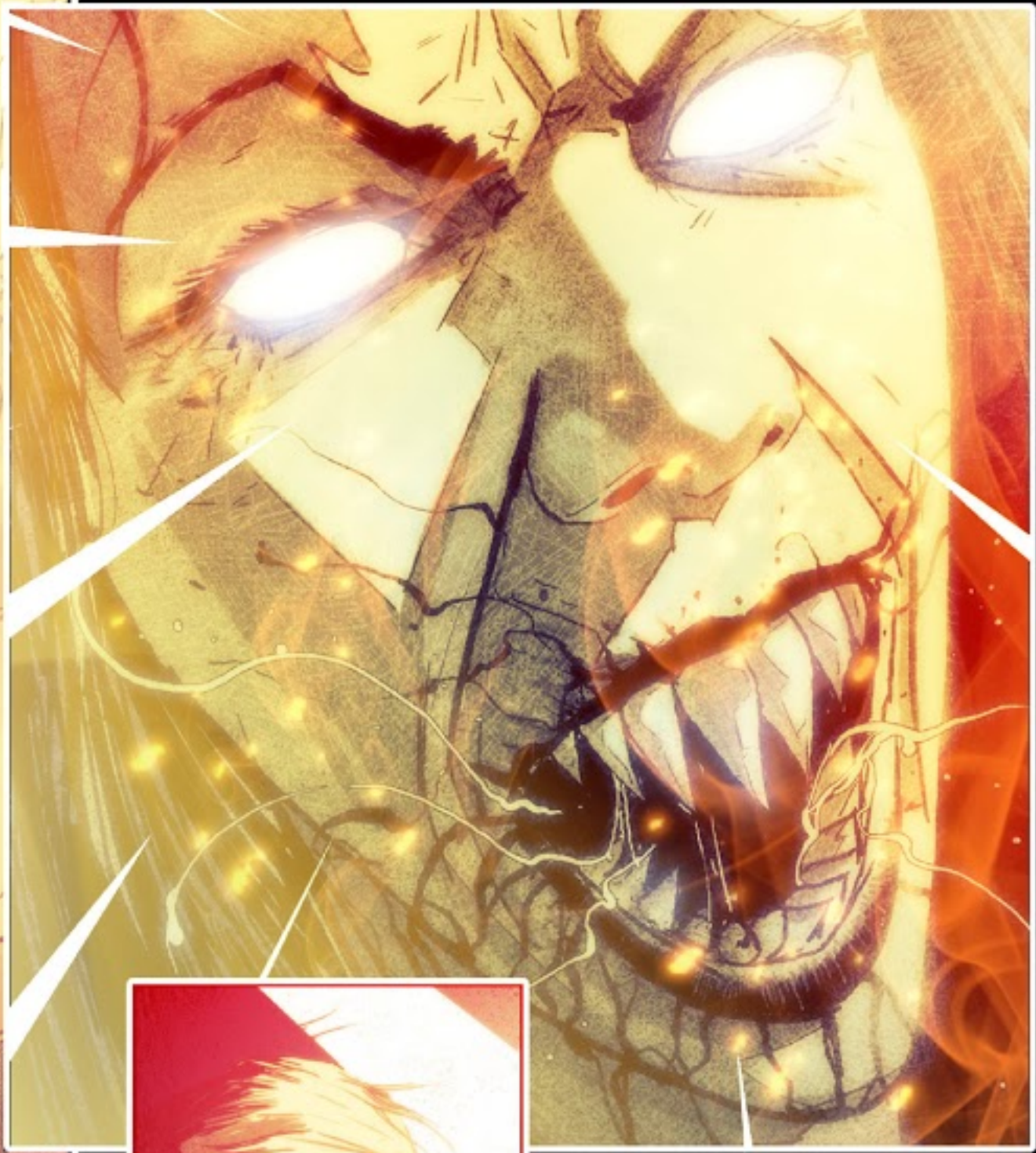
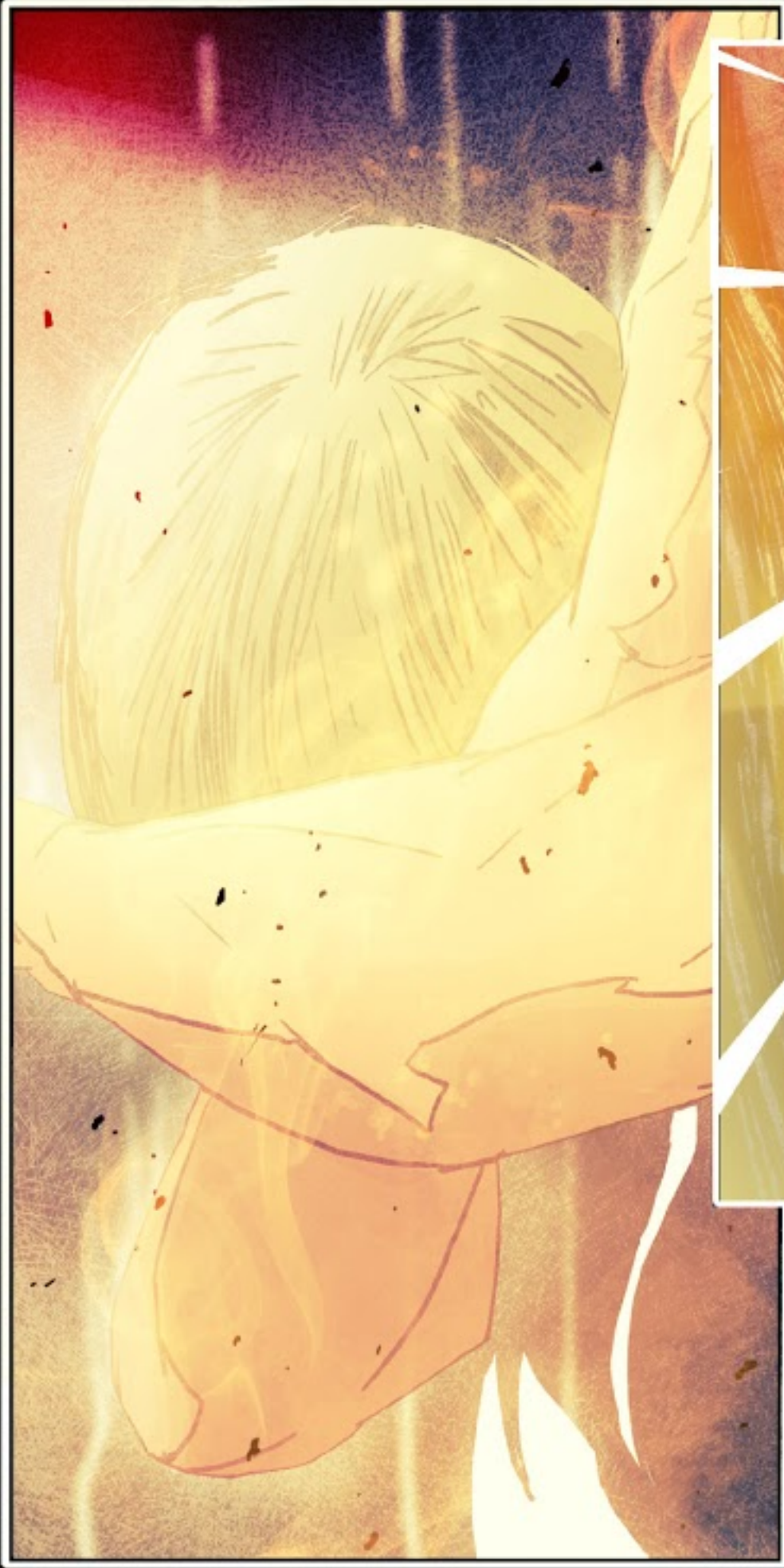
YOU STILL
THINK MALEBOLGIA
SHOULD HAVE LET YOU
BE THE LEADER OF HIS
ARMY INSTEAD OF THE
HUMAN SPAWNS. BUT
HE DIDN'T. YOU
KNOW WHY?

HE
COULDN'T
TRUST
YOU.



GOODBYE,
CLOWN.





HURTS,
DOESN'T
IT?

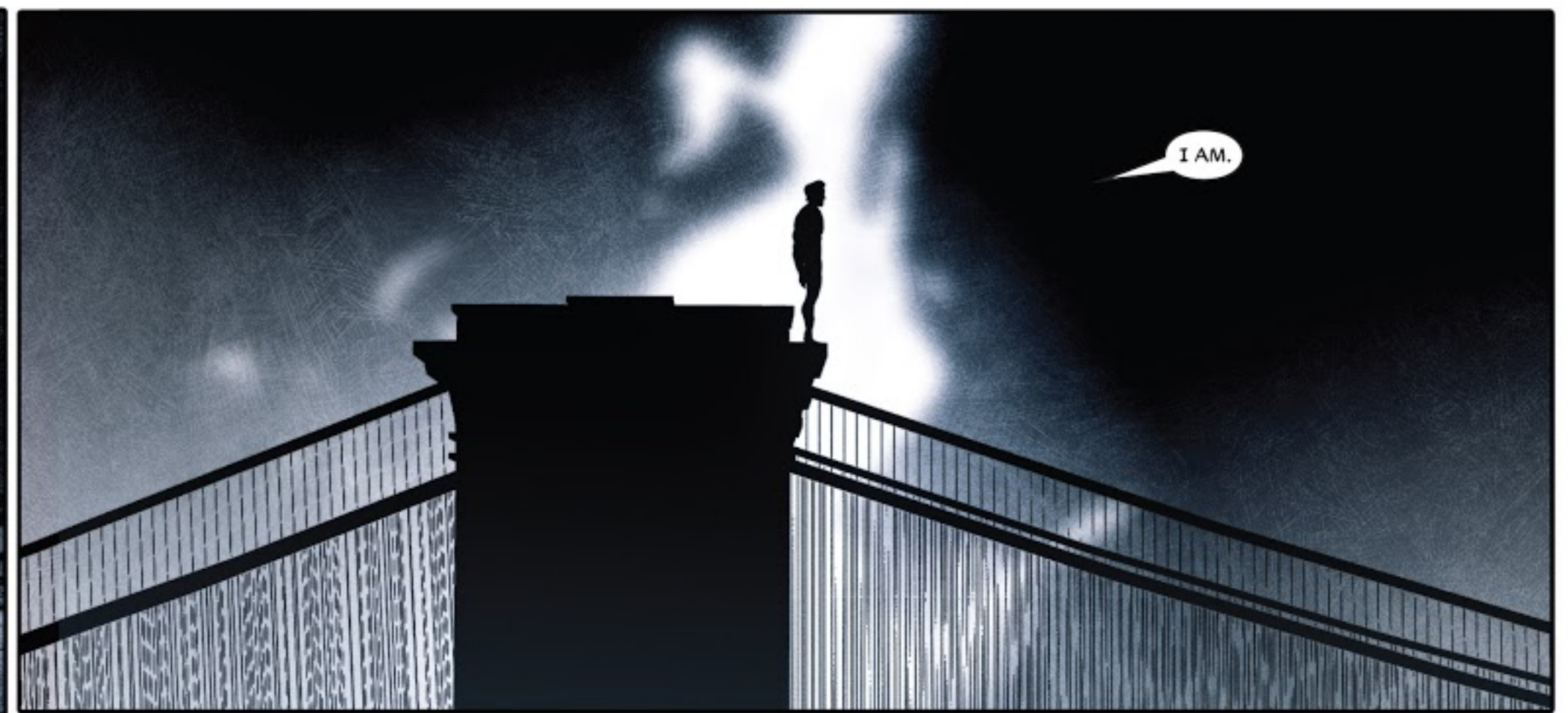
ESPECIALLY
WHEN YOU'RE
A NEW VAMPIRE.
SUNLIGHT WON'T KILL
YOU-- BUT FROM
WHAT I'VE BEEN
TOLD IT BURNS
LIKE HELL!

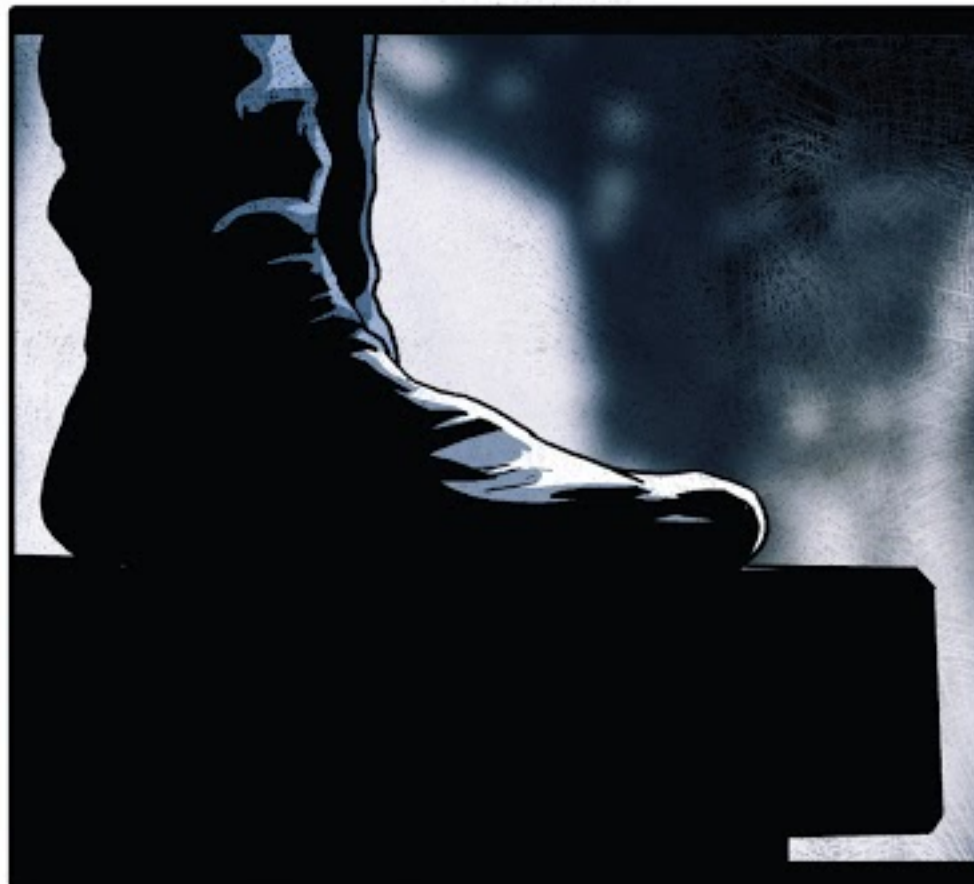
SO
BLUDD MAY
HAVE TOSSED
YOU ASIDE, BUT I
STILL INTEND ON
GETTING WHAT
I WANT FROM
YOU.



AND IF BLUDD
HAD STUCK AROUND
INSTEAD OF ACTING SO
ARROGANT-- HE WOULDN'T
HAVE MADE THE CRITICAL
MISTAKE OF ASSUMING
I'VE NEVER DEALT WITH
HYBRIDS BEFORE.

I COULD HAVE
INTRODUCED HIM TO
ANOTHER WARRIOR OF
GOD'S WHO'S BEEN BITTEN.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MY
REDEEMER?





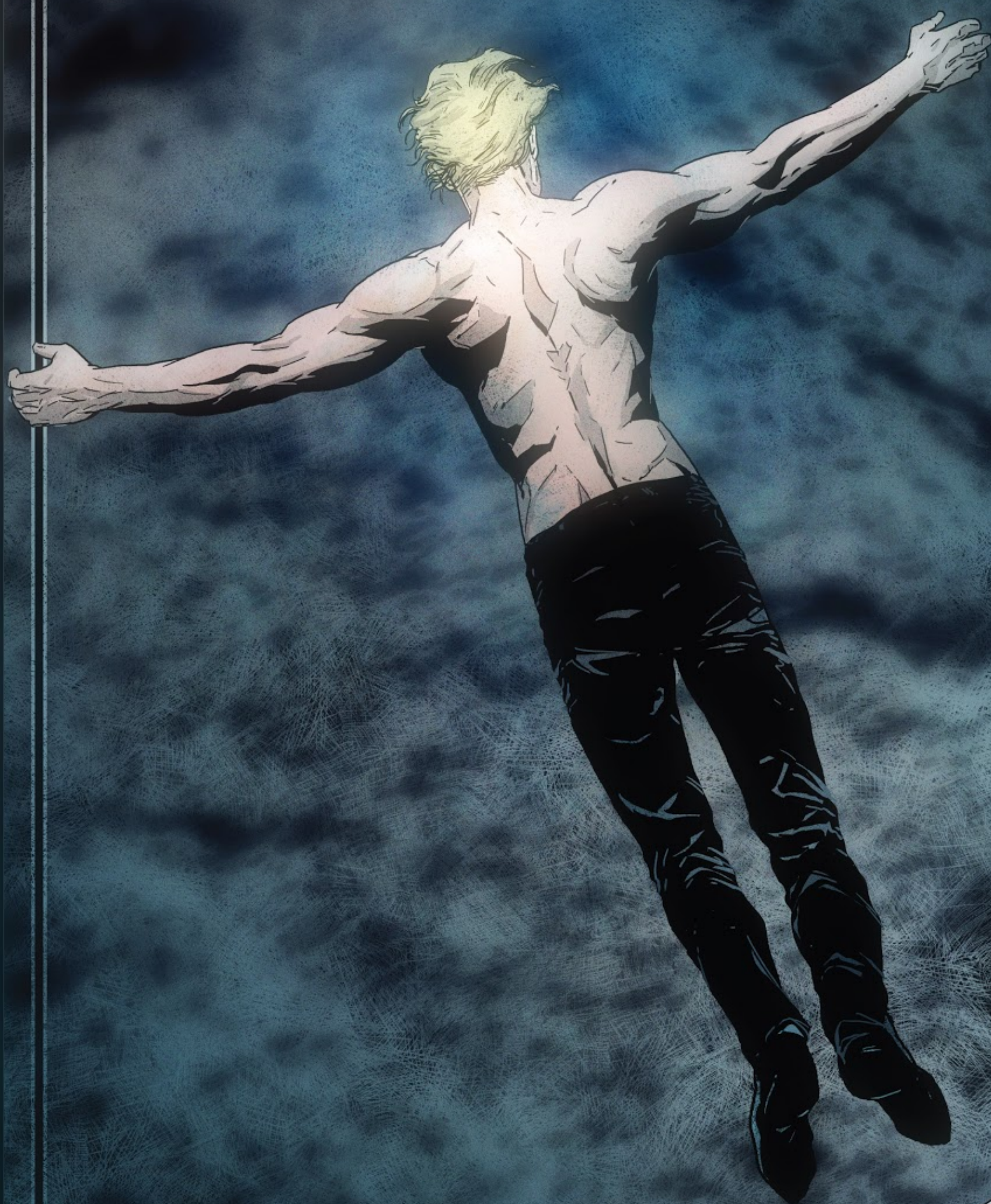


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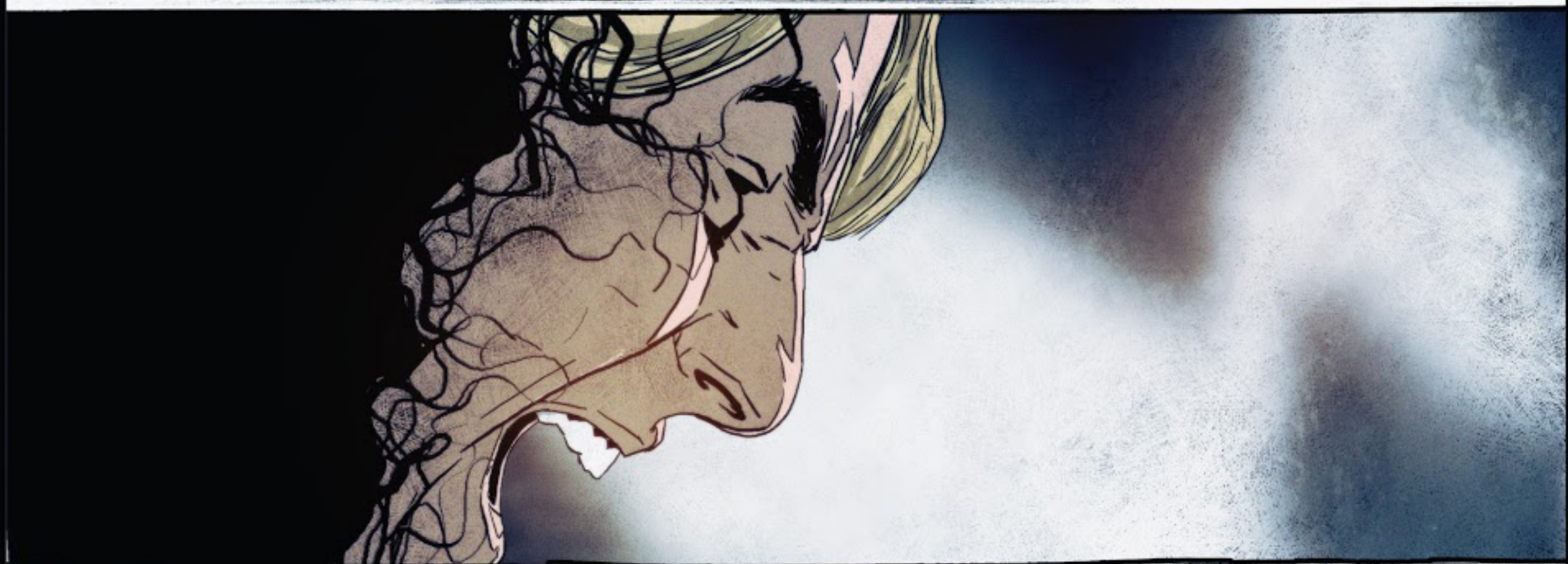
M. FARJANE



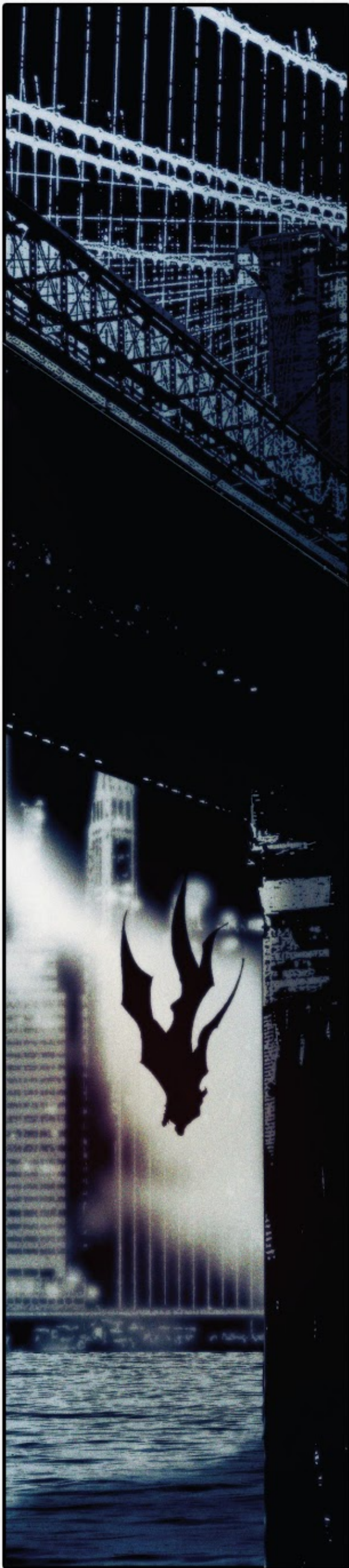


'AND IN THAT MOMENT GOD
CAST OUT HIS DARK ANGEL. FOR IT
WAS THEN THAT GOD KNEW THAT TO
ACCEPT THE PRESENCE OF EVIL IN
HIS DOMAIN WOULD IN TIME TAINT
ALL HE HAD CREATED.'

'HE ALSO KNEW THAT THE EVIL
WAS NOT THE ANGEL HIMSELF, BUT
INSTEAD WHAT WAS IN HIS HEART.
AND SINCE GOD COULD NOT SEPARATE
THE ANGEL FROM HIS HEART... BOTH
WERE CAST TO THE PITS OF HELL."
--Book of Divinity: Chapter 23:
Verses 11-13



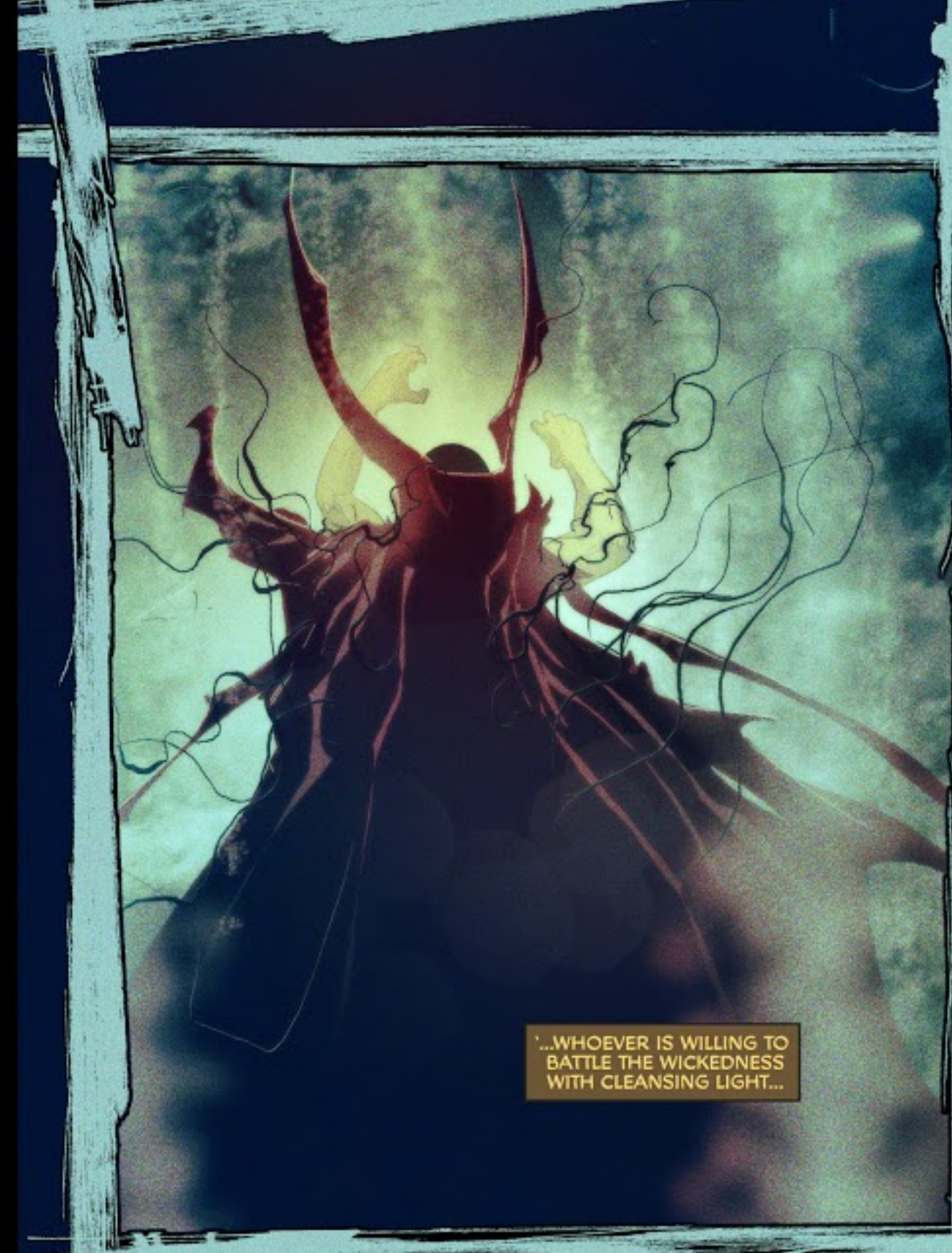
'IF THEY HAD THE STRENGTH AND VISION
TO EMBRACE THEIR EVIL, EVEN FOR BUT
A SHORT MOMENT... IT WOULD ALLOW
THE FALLEN TO GATHER AT ONCE, ALL OF
THE BLACK MANIFESTATION, AND SLAY
THE EVIL BY SACRIFICING HIMSELF.'
--Book of Divinity: Chapter 37: Verse 9



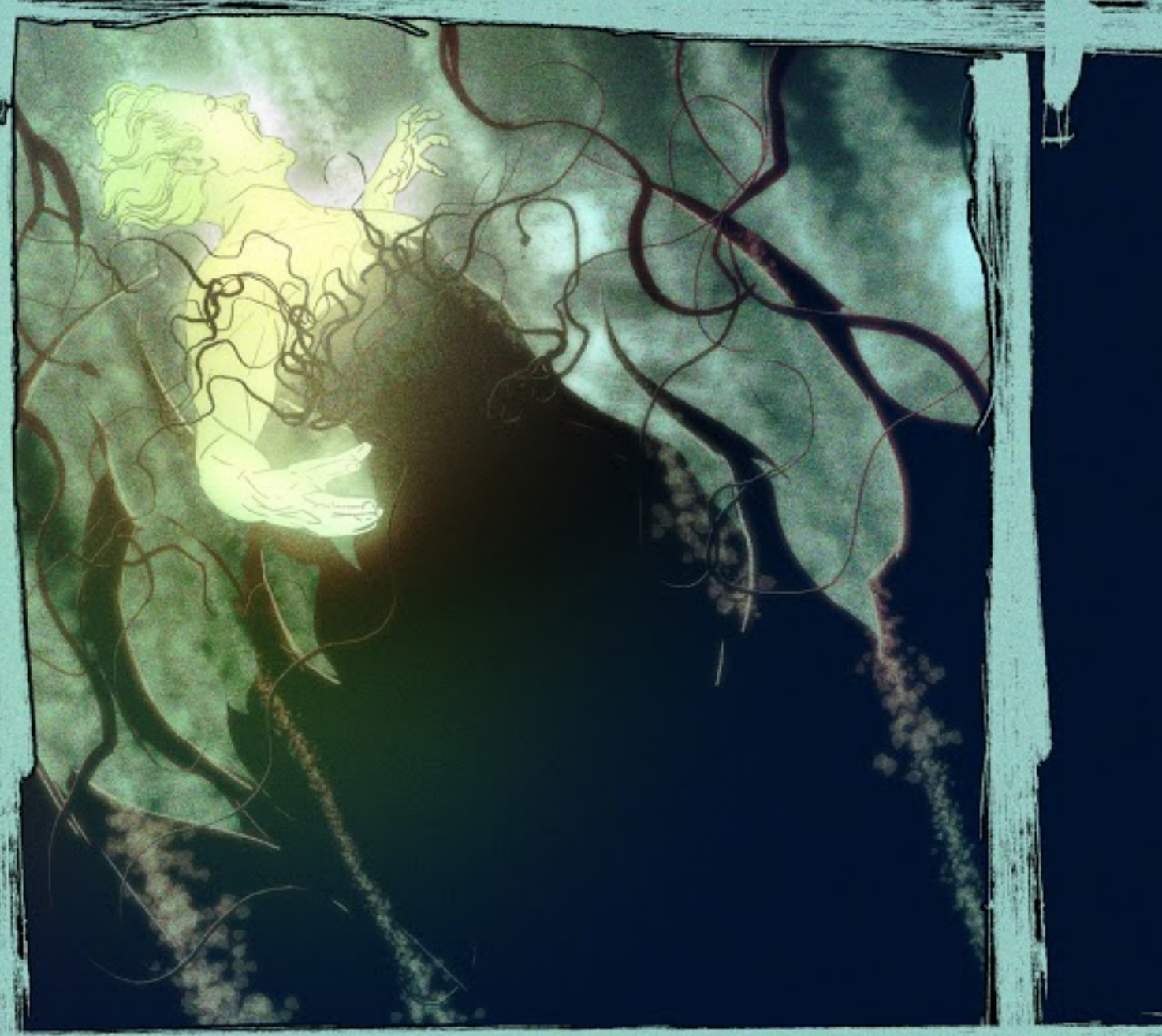
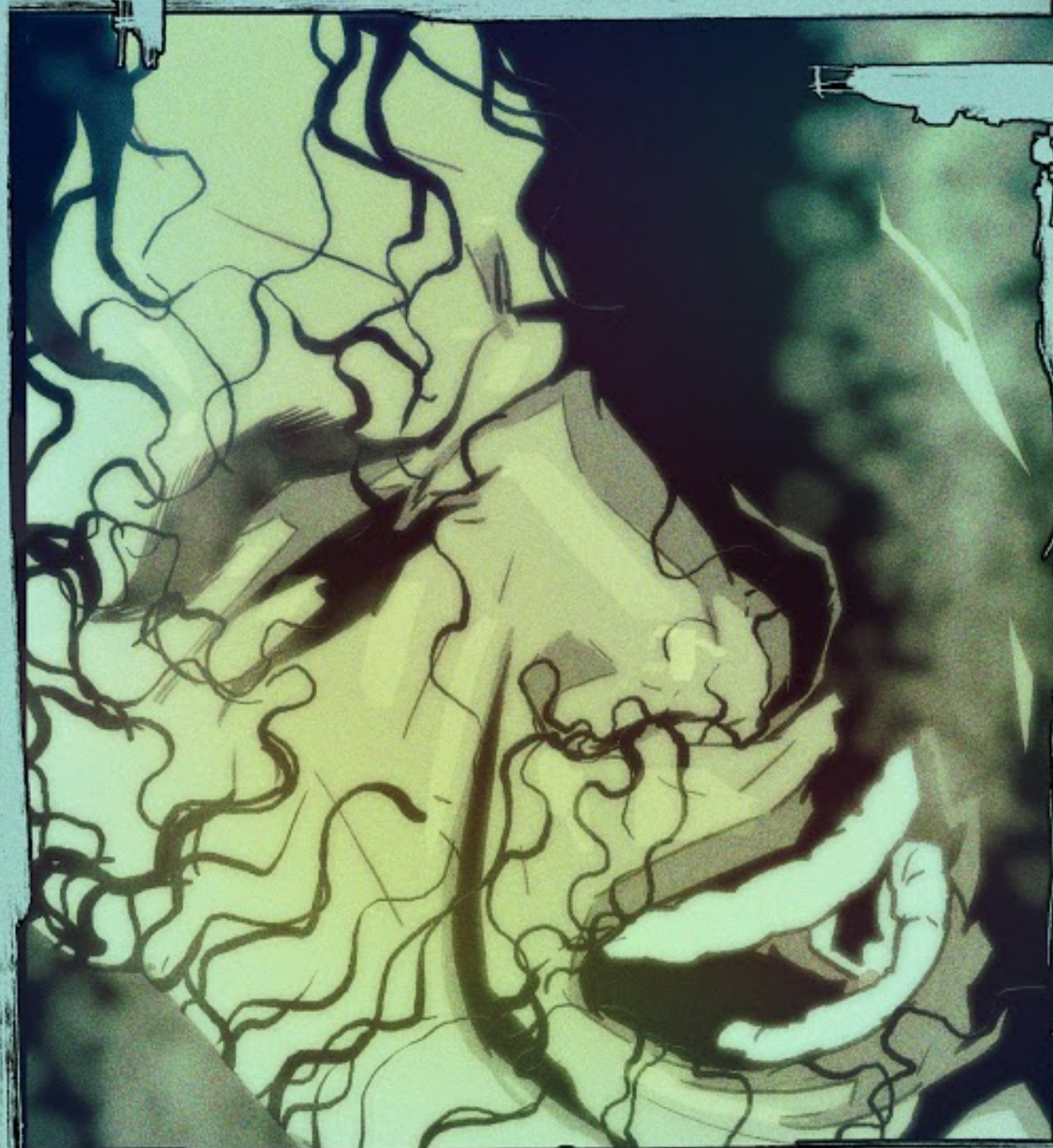




'FOR WHOEVER IS
WILLING TO FIGHT FOR
THEIR OWN SOUL...



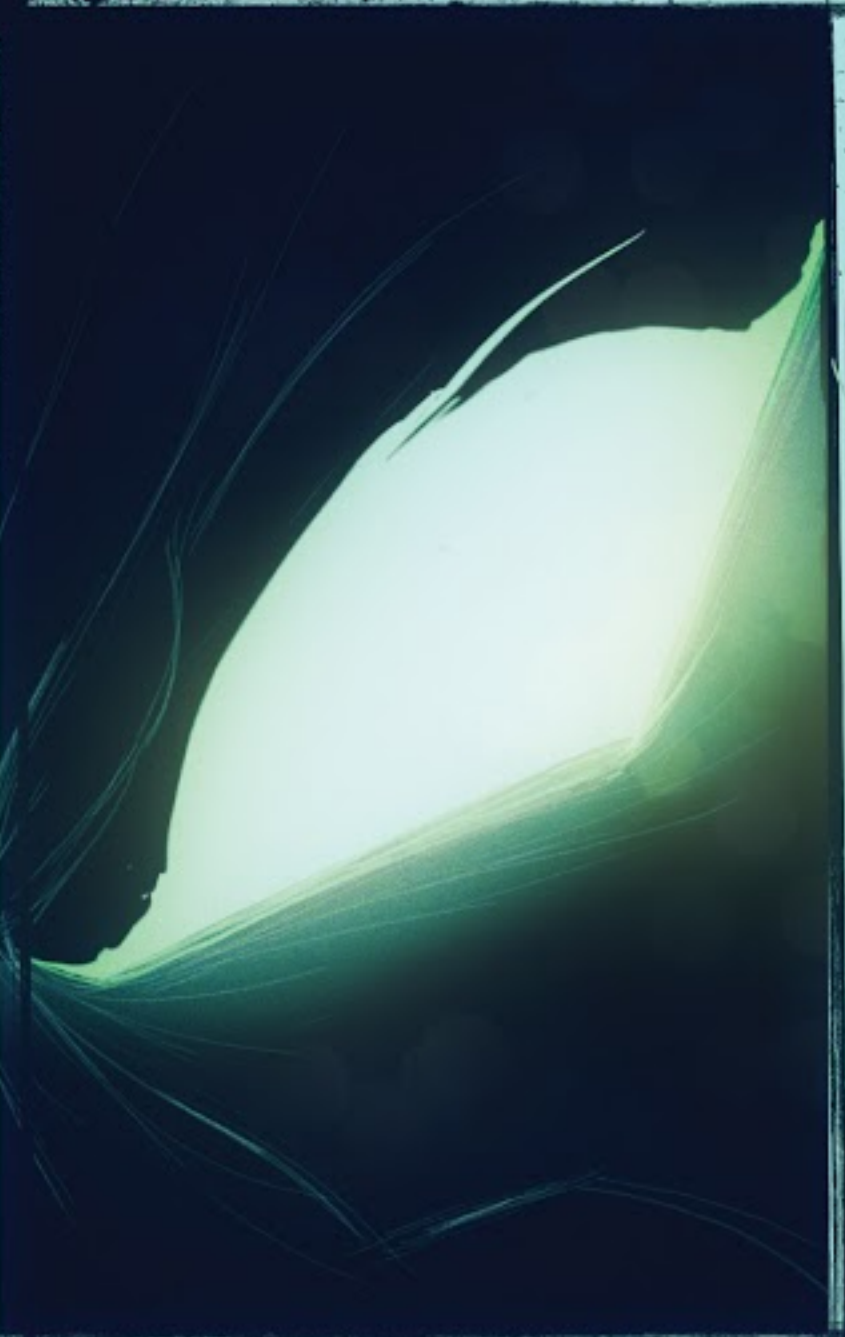
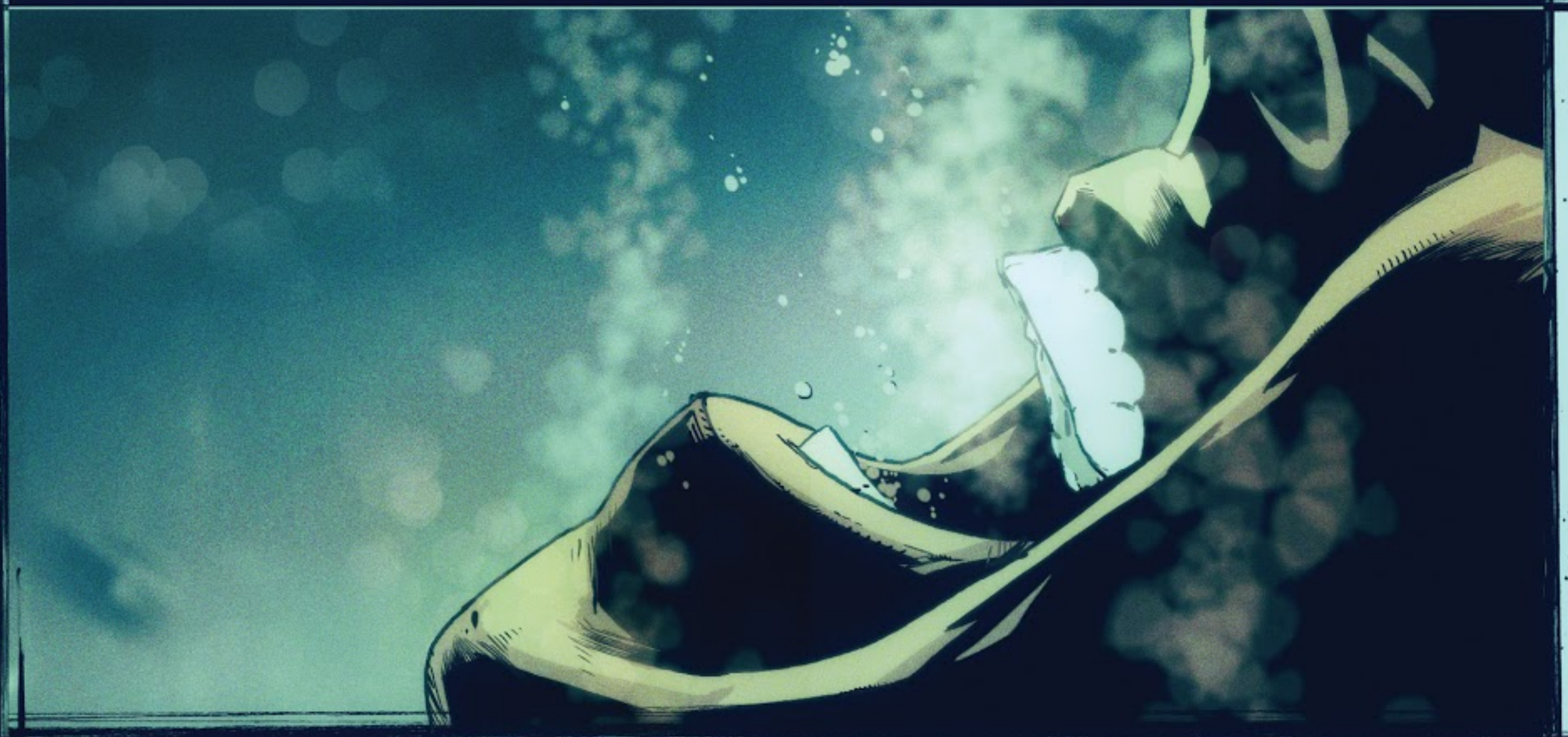
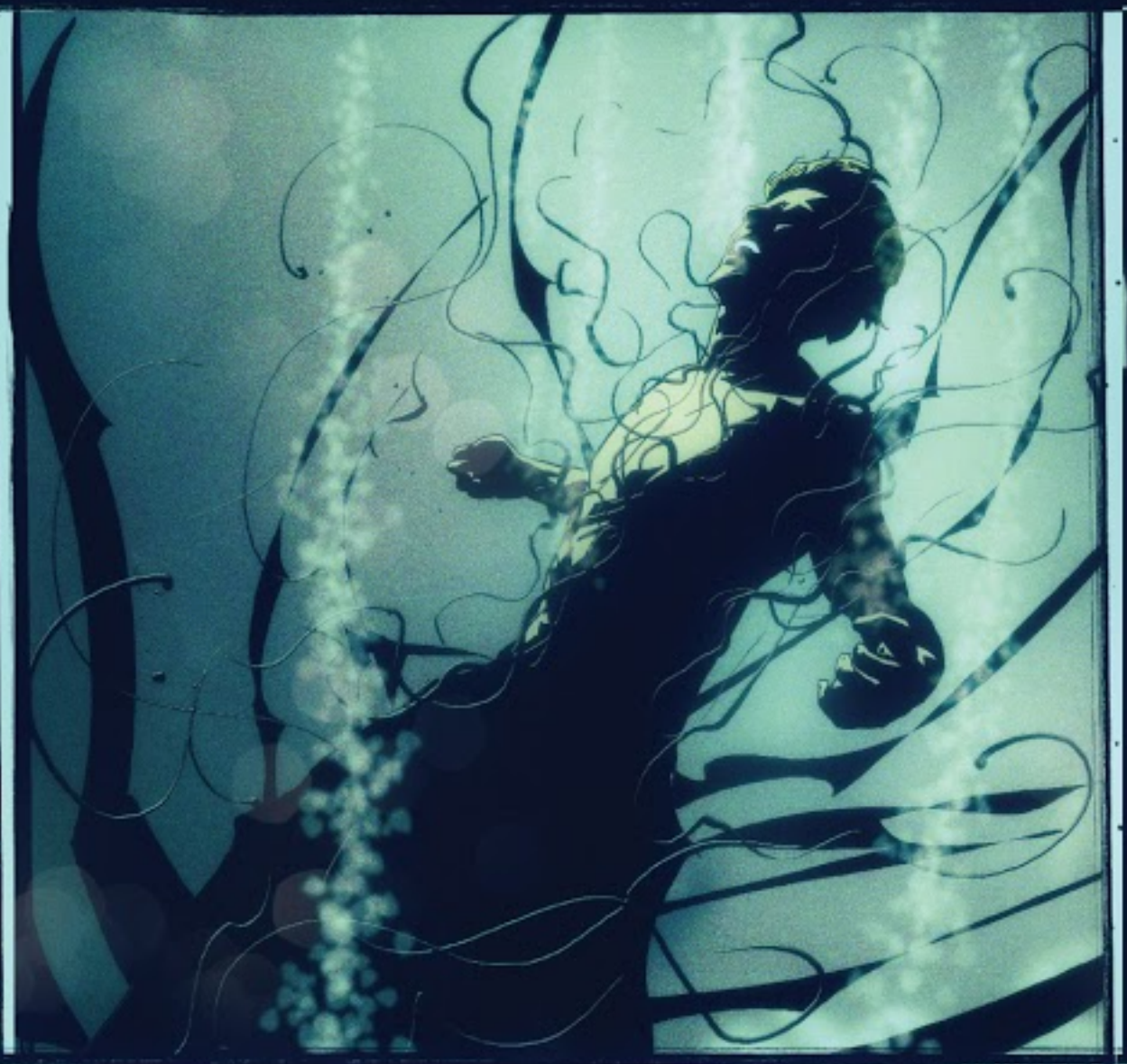
'...WHOEVER IS WILLING TO
BATTLE THE WICKEDNESS
WITH CLEANSING LIGHT...





'...SHALL BATHE HIMSELF IN THE
DEEDS OF GOD AND BE SAVED BY THE
LORD'S HAND. THOSE THAT RESIST WILL
FOREVER MORE BE SWALLOWED BY THE
DARKNESS THEY REFUSE TO LET GO.'
--Book of Divinity: Chapter 4: Verses 8-10







GASP!

GET
UP!

YOU DON'T GET
TO DIE THAT EASILY.
THAT'S NOT HOW IT
WORKS! YOU CAN'T JUST
DROWN YOURSELF OR YOUR
SYMBIOTE?! EVEN IF YOU
WANTED TO-- THE COSTUME
WOULDN'T LET YOU! IT'S
HAD CENTURIES
HONING ITS SURVIVAL
INSTINCTS.

AND YOUR
FOOLISH STUNT
ONLY **REINFORCES**
THAT IT HAS POWER
OVER YOU. IT THRIVES
ON MANY THINGS...
WEAKNESS IS ONE
OF THEM.





SO, IT'S
TIME TO ASK
YOUR SYMBIOTE
TO LEAVE.





THERE...
THAT'S BETTER.
NOW WE CAN
BOTH RELAX.

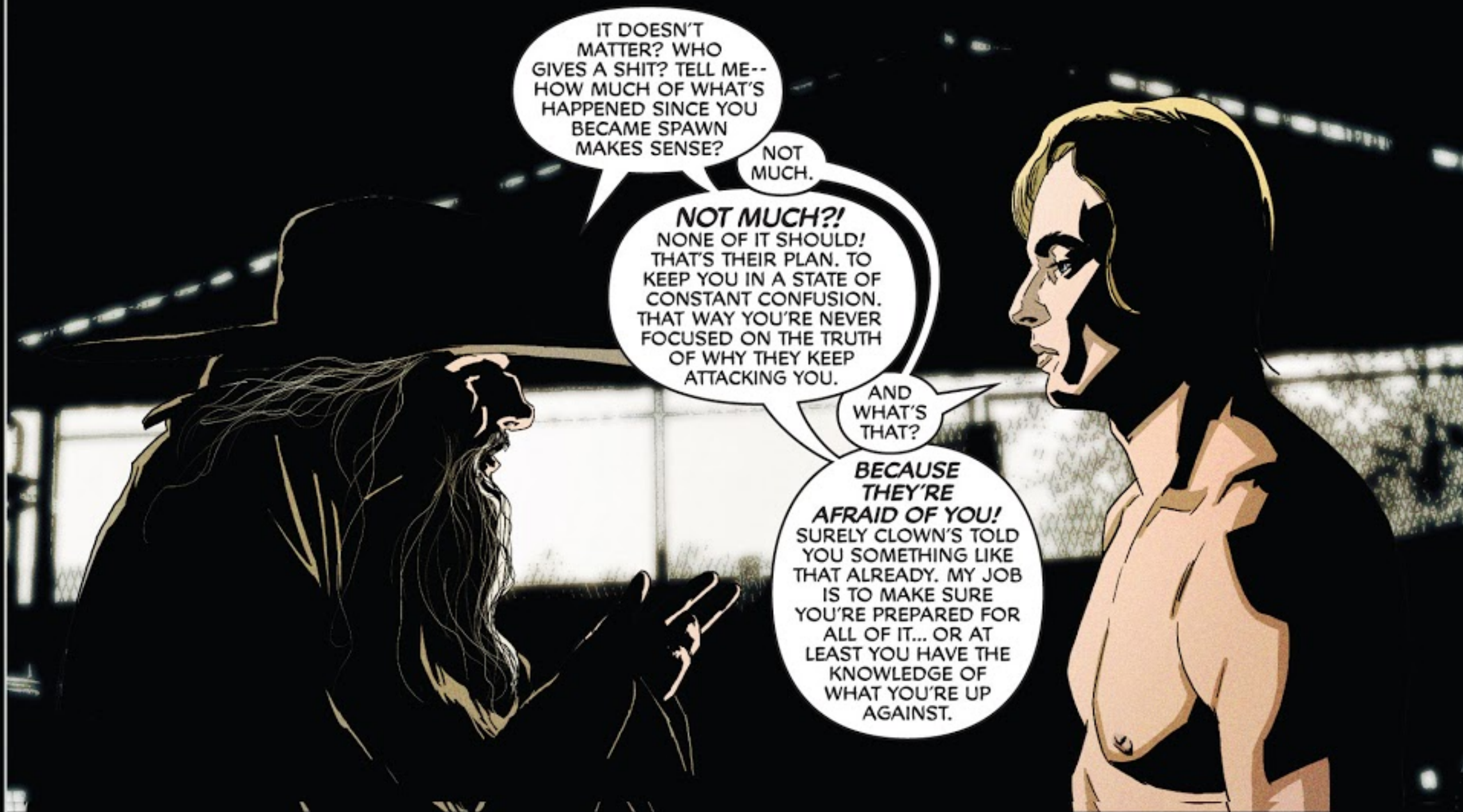
WHAT
THE HELL ARE
YOU?

SAME
THING YOU
ARE. SOME-
ONE THAT'S
CURSED.



HOW...

I WAS
IN THE RIVER.
HOW'D WE
GET HERE?



IT DOESN'T
MATTER? WHO
GIVES A SHIT? TELL ME--
HOW MUCH OF WHAT'S
HAPPENED SINCE YOU
BECAME SPAWN
MAKES SENSE?

NOT
MUCH.

NOT MUCH?!
NONE OF IT SHOULD!
THAT'S THEIR PLAN. TO
KEEP YOU IN A STATE OF
CONSTANT CONFUSION.
THAT WAY YOU'RE NEVER
FOCUSED ON THE TRUTH
OF WHY THEY KEEP
ATTACKING YOU.

AND
WHAT'S
THAT?

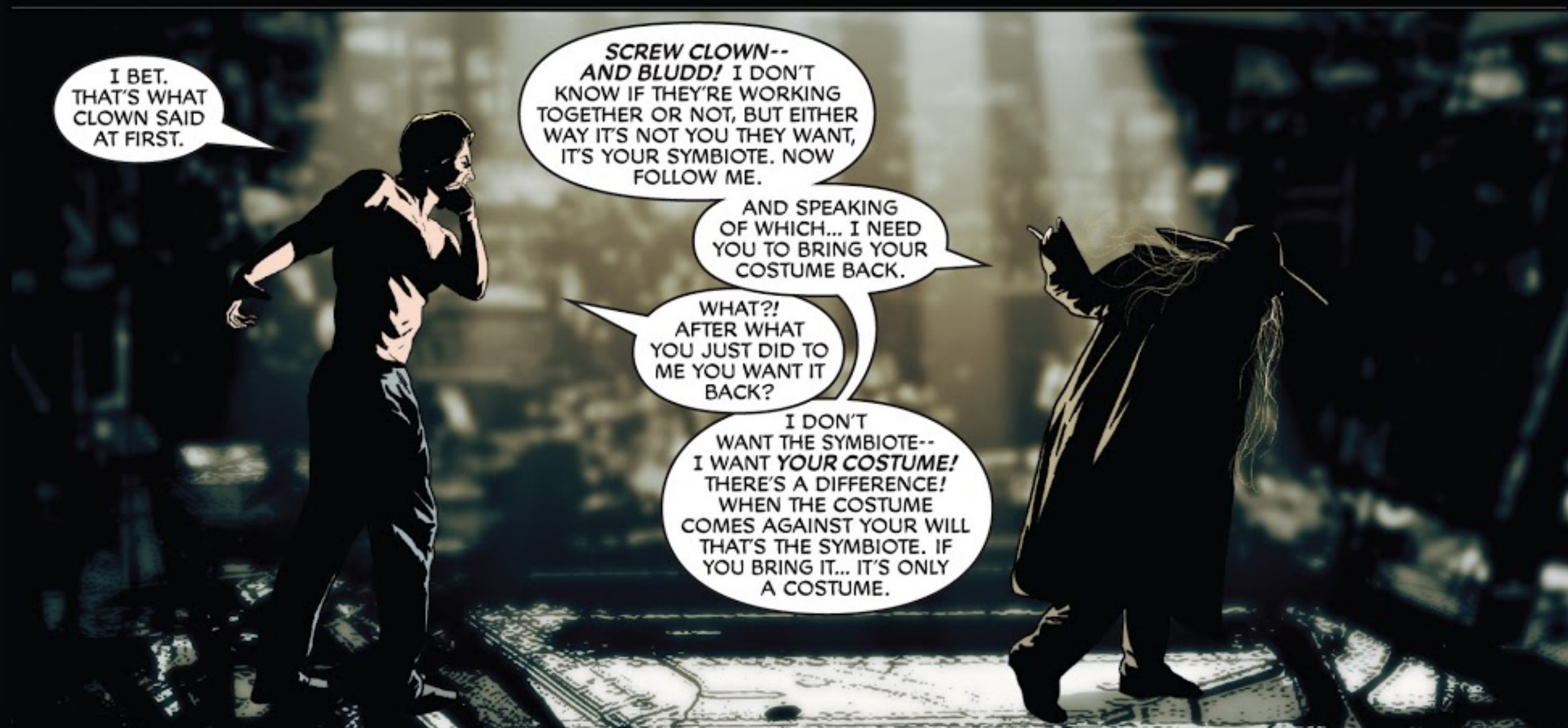
**BECAUSE
THEY'RE
AFRAID OF YOU!**
SURELY CLOWN'S TOLD
YOU SOMETHING LIKE
THAT ALREADY. MY JOB
IS TO MAKE SURE
YOU'RE PREPARED FOR
ALL OF IT... OR AT
LEAST YOU HAVE THE
KNOWLEDGE OF
WHAT YOU'RE UP
AGAINST.



SO NOW
WHAT? I'M
SUPPOSED TO
JUST TRUST
YOU?



NO. BUT
I'M GOING TO
HELP YOU
ANYWAY.





THAT'S
GOOD.
KEEP IT
UP.



YOU NEED
TO BE FULLY
CLOTHED FOR
THIS NEXT STEP.
LET'S GO.



AND BEFORE
YOU EVEN ASK... NO.
THIS ISN'T A TRAP?
IT'S PART OF YOUR
EDUCATION.



I'LL GO
FIRST. MAKE
SURE IT'S CLEAR.
YOU FOLLOW
BEHIND.



SO TELL ME
SOMETHING, OLD
MAN. WHAT'S YOUR
DEAL? YOU GOT
A NAME?



IT'S
COGLIOSTRO.
I USED TO BE A
SPAWN.



USED
TO BE?



THAT'S ENCOURAGING! I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK THIS MIGHT BE A PERMANENT GIG.

I WOULDN'T TREAT THIS AS SOME KIND OF A JOKE. I CAN ASSURE YOU YOUR ENEMIES AREN'T-- BECAUSE THEY KNOW EXACTLY WHAT'S AT STAKE. WHY DO YOU THINK BLUDD BUILT THIS SPECIFIC PART OF YOUR NEW BUILDING SO QUICKLY?

BECAUSE IT HOLDS A SECRET! THAT'S WHY HE BOUGHT THIS PIECE OF LAND TO START WITH! HE NEEDED TO ERECT SOMETHING SO OTHERS WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FIND WHAT HE WANTS TO HIDE.



"CLOWN ALREADY KNOWS, BUT CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.



"BUT BLUDD-- HE'S SEARCHED FOR THIS HIS ENTIRE LIFE.



"AND THE BIGGEST REASON HE EVER BEGAN FUNDING 'THE PROJECT' WAS TO BUILD AN ARMY HE COULD USE TO BATTLE GOD."



THE REASON YOU EXIST-- WHY YOU BECAME 'PATIENT 47'-- WAS BECAUSE YOU WERE TO BE PART OF THAT ARMY. AS MUCH AS BLUDD FLAUNTS HIS BATTALION OF VAMPIRES-- HE DOESN'T TRUST THEM.



"BUT WHAT IF HE
COULD GET HELL'S
GREATEST WARRIOR
TO HELP DESTROY
HEAVEN? WHAT IF HE
COULD GET... YOU?"



"AND YOUR
SYMBIOTE!"



GOD
WOULDN'T
STAND A
CHANCE.



BLUDD
KNOWS IT.
THAT'S WHY
HE'S TRYING
TO HIDE
THIS...

the 'DEAD ZONE!'

IT MAY NOT
LOOK LIKE MUCH--
BUT THIS SIMPLE PATCH
OF DIRT IS THE REASON
ALL THE WARS IN THE
WORLD HAVE BEEN
FOUGHT.

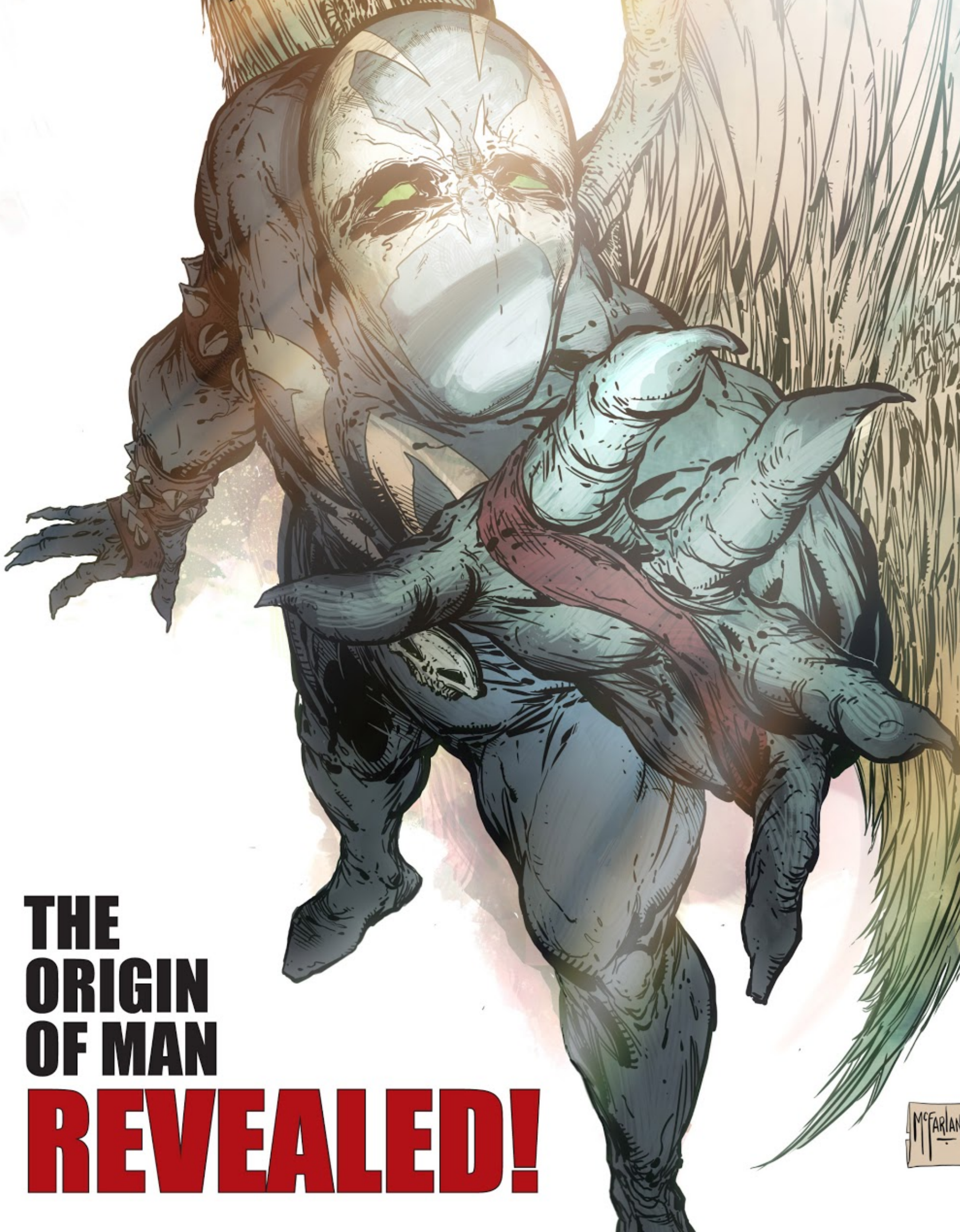


TO BE CONTINUED



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238
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**THE
ORIGIN
OF MAN
REVEALED!**

McFARLANE



LIKE I SAID--
THIS PATCH OF DIRT
AND A FEW OTHERS
HIDDEN AROUND THE
WORLD-- IS THE
REASON EVERY WAR
HAS BEEN FOUGHT
BY MANKIND.

THIS IS WHERE
'SIN' FIRST LEAKED
ITSELF ONTO EARTH. AND
FROM HERE IT ATTACHED
ITSELF TO EVERY LIVING CREATURE
IN EXISTENCE. WE TRY DENYING
HAVING IT IN US... BUT IT'S
THERE! IN ALL OF US. WE'VE
JUST GOTTEN SO USED TO IT
THAT WE CALL IT DIFFERENT
NAMES NOW.

EGO. ANGER.
GREED. A DOZEN
OTHERS. AT THE END
OF THE DAY IT'S ALL
THE SAME. AND
MAN HAS BECOME
ADDICTED TO
ITS ALLURE.



TO ITS
CALLING.



"THAT'S WHY THEY'VE DISTORTED HISTORY, BECAUSE MAN ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE HIMSELF AS BEING MORE PURE THAN HE REALLY WAS. SO NOW ONLY A FRACTION OF WRITTEN HISTORY IS TRUTHFUL. LIES AND DECEPTION HAVE FILLED IN THE REST.

"SO IF YOU HONESTLY WANT TO LEARN WHY YOU'RE A SPAWN, YOU MAY WANT TO PAY ATTENTION TO SOME OF THIS.

"NOW LET'S START AT THE BEGINNING. WAS THERE A GARDEN OF EDEN? SURE, BUT IT EXISTED A LOT LONGER THAN YOU'VE BEEN TAUGHT. AND WAS THERE AN ADAM AND EVE? YES, BUT THEY TOO CAME INTO EXISTENCE A LOT LONGER THAN THE BIBLE SAYS.

"THE BIG PIECE OF THAT STORY THAT WASN'T TOLD, IS EVE WASN'T THE ONLY WOMAN CREATED THEN. SHE HAD SISTERS. REMEMBER... WOMAN WAS CREATED FROM ADAM'S RIB. THOUGH THAT'S ANOTHER FABRICATION OF SORTS, ADAM HAD MORE THAN ONE RIB. SO EVE AND HER SISTERS WERE CREATED SIMULTANEOUSLY.

"AND HERE'S WHERE THINGS TAKE A TWIST AWAY FROM YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHINGS. WOMAN-- LIKE MAN-- WASN'T CREATED BY GOD ONLY. SHE ALSO HAD THE TOUCH OF SATAN IN HER D.N.A. YOU SEE, MR. DOWNING, THAT'S THE BIG LIE WE'VE ALL BEEN FED. THAT GOD ONLY MADE YOU. IT'S NEVER BEEN LIKE THAT. EVER! HEAVEN AND HELL HAVE ALWAYS HAD A FIFTY-FIFTY RELATIONSHIP. THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN EQUALS.

"IT'S WHY ANY OF US HAS THE CAPACITY FOR BOTH GOOD AND EVIL. BECAUSE WE HAD *TWO FATHERS* THAT MADE US.



"EVE CHOSE TO FOLLOW CLOSER TO THE TEACHINGS OF GOD, WHILE HER SISTER LILITH CHOSE THE PATH OF SATAN.



"LILITH ACQUIRED POWER. LOTS OF IT. USING IT TO LURE VICTIMS INTO HER TRAP.



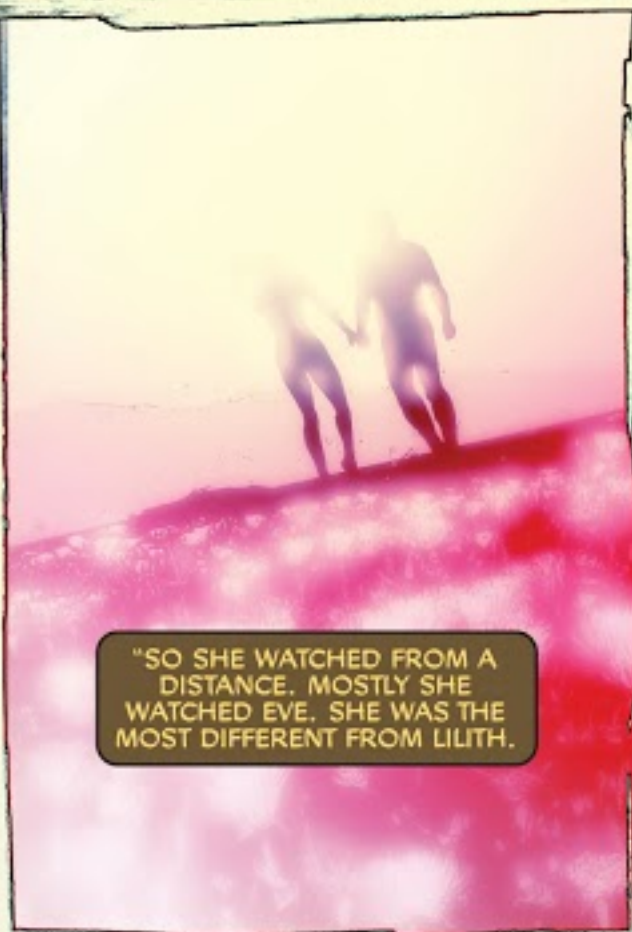
"SHE RELISHED EVERY MOMENT OF IT.



"AS SHE TRAVELLED THE COUNTRY-SIDE SHE BECAME MORE AND MORE SKILLED IN THE ART OF DECEPTION.



"AND WHENEVER SHE LAPSED, SHE'D HAVE A SPIRITUAL MEETING WITH HER LORD. HE WOULD TELL HER TO KEEP AN EYE ON HER OTHER SISTERS BECAUSE THEY WEREN'T LIKE HER."



"SO SHE WATCHED FROM A DISTANCE. MOSTLY SHE WATCHED EVE. SHE WAS THE MOST DIFFERENT FROM LILITH.



"THOUGH THEY SHARED TWO THINGS IN COMMON. ONE WAS ADAM--HE'D BEDDED EACH OF THEM. THE SECOND WAS...



"NEITHER COULD RESIST TEMPTATION.



"AND WITH A SINGLE BITE EVERYTHING BECAME CONNECTED! EVERYTHING!

"WHY DO YOU THINK YOUR CAPE IS RED? NOT BECAUSE BLOOD'S THAT COLOR. IT'S THE APPLE! IT SIGNIFIED HUMANS HUNGER FOR EVIL! AND SADLY, THAT APPETITE WILL NEVER BE SATISFIED. WHICH IS HOW EDEN FELL INTO DESPAIR. AND LIKE THE SKULLS ON YOUR OWN COSTUME, DEATH BEGAN TO APPEAR ALL AROUND.

"PARADISE WAS LOST AND A NEW HUMANITY TOOK ITS PLACE. GOD AND SATAN FOUGHT OVER THE CONTROL OF THESE BEINGS CONSTANTLY."





"AT FIRST 'MOTHER NATURE' THOUGHT HER TWO SONS WOULD GROW TIRED OF THE CONSTANT BICKERING OVER WHO CONTROLLED THIS NEW FOUND BALL CALLED 'EARTH'. BUT THEY DIDN'T. SO SHE DID THE ONLY THING ANY MOTHER WOULD DO... SHE TOOK AWAY THE BALL.

"SHE POISONED THE AIR AND THE WATER AND SOON ALL LIFE DISAPPEARED. WITH NO SOULS TO FIGHT OVER, GOD AND SATAN HAD TO LEARN TO GET ALONG. FOR A TIME IT ACTUALLY WORKED.

"BUT IT STARTED AGAIN!"

"ALL BECAUSE A SINGLE AMOEBA SPLIT, THEN BECAME TWO, THEN FOUR, EIGHT, SIXTEEN. LIFE HAD BEGUN ONCE MORE. THE ANIMALS EVOLVED FIRST LONG BEFORE MANKIND. THAT'S WHEN GOD AND SATAN BEGAN FIGHTING AGAIN. THEY COULDN'T WAIT FOR MAN'S SOUL TO REAPPEAR SO THEY DIVIDED THE ANIMALS. HEAVEN GOT THE DOVE, BUTTERFLIES, PUPPIES, HORSES. EVERY ANIMAL WE THINK OF IN A POSITIVE LIGHT.

"SATAN TOOK THE RAT, THE WOLF, SNAKES, SPIDERS, VULTURES, BATS. ALL THE ANIMALS AND CREATURES WE NOW ASSOCIATE WITH DARKNESS.

"EVENTUALLY, MAN STOOD SUPREME AGAIN WITH GOD AND SATAN VYING FOR EACH AND EVERY SOUL. YET BECAUSE EACH HUMAN IS A COMBINATION OF THESE TWO FORCES THERE WAS A NEED TO CONQUER. AT FIRST IT WAS JUST THE ANIMALS. WHEN THAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED ALL THAT WAS LEFT WAS MAN HIMSELF. THAT'S WHEN THE WORD 'WAR' WAS CREATED.

"WHETHER DRIVEN BECAUSE OF LOVE, GREED OR POLITICS, THIS NEW BREED OF MAN BECAME SO SKILLED AT ANNIHILATING EACH OTHER, THEIR SOULS WERE EVEN MORE VALUABLE TO SATAN AND GOD THAN EVER BEFORE."



"THAT'S BECAUSE EACH OF THEM HAD BEGUN SCHEMING HOW TO CONTROL THEIR OWN DESTINY. FIRST IT WOULD REQUIRE AMASSING THE LARGEST ARMY OF SOULS POSSIBLE. AN ARMY SO DOMINANT IT COULD BE USED TO ELIMINATE THEIR SIBLING. THEN, THE WINNER WOULD CONTROL TWO ARMIES-- THEIR OWN AND THAT OF THEIR DEAD BROTHER'S. THAT CULMINATION OF POWER WOULD THEN BE USED FOR A GREATER PURPOSE...TO **KILL** THEIR **MOTHER!**"

"TO DO THAT, BOTH GOD AND SATAN KNEW ONE OF THEM NEEDED TO HAVE A MORE VICIOUS AND VILE ARMY THAN THE OTHER. BUT INSTEAD OF FIGHTING THEY CAME TO AN AGREEMENT. EVERY SOUL WOULD ALTERNATE WHERE IT WAS SENT UPON DEATH. ONE TO HEAVEN THEN THE NEXT TO HELL. THIS BACK AND FORTH HAS BEEN GOING ON SINCE THE DAWN OF THIS NEW HUMAN SPECIES."

"SO IT HAS **NOTHING** TO DO WITH WHETHER YOU ARE A GOOD PERSON OR NOT. THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS IS WHERE THE SOUL OF THE PERSON WHO DIED **JUST BEFORE YOU** GOES? WHATEVER THAT ANSWER IS...YOUR SOUL GOES THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION."

"THE SINGLE BIGGEST CON PERPETRATED ON MAN HAS BEEN HIS DELUSION IN THINKING ANY OF HIS EARTHLY ACTIONS HAVE ANY BEARING ON HIS FINAL DESTINY. **BEING GOOD OR EVIL IS IRRELEVANT!** EVERY SOUL IS NOTHING MORE THAN A POTENTIAL SOLDIER FOR EITHER ARMY."

"AND SINCE BOTH ONLY WANTED THEIR NEXT SOUL TO BE AS RUTHLESS AS POSSIBLE, THEY HELPED TRAIN MAN IN THE WAYS OF WAR. BECAUSE THE MORE SADISTIC A HUMAN WAS DURING LIFE, THE MORE EVIL HIS SOUL WOULD BE IN DEATH."

"GOD AND SATAN DESIRED THESE TYPES OF SOULS MORE THAN ANY OTHER. BECAUSE THEY KNEW WHOEVER HAD THE BEST OF THIS KIND WOULD EVENTUALLY WIN THEIR **UNHOLY WAR.**"



"AND AS TIME MARCHED ON SO DID THE ADVANCEMENTS IN WARFARE. WHAT STARTED WITH STICKS AND ROCKS, BECAME SPEARS WHICH SOON WERE REPLACED BY STEEL... OR MORE ACCURATELY SWORDS, CANNONBALLS AND BULLETS.

"PUT THAT TOGETHER WITH NEW WAYS OF TRAVEL AND MAN WAS NOW ABLE TO TAKE HIS BLOODLUST TO PARTS OF THE WORLD HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW EXISTED. WHERE HE MET STRANGE GROUPS OF HUMANS-- WITH SKIN COLORS NEVER IMAGINED.

"BORDERS BECAME MEANINGLESS. OCEANS WERE CROSSED AND ENTIRE CIVILIZATIONS WERE WIPED OUT BY HEARTLESS ARMIES. YET THIS WAS STILL JUST THE INFANCY OF HOW BRUTAL MAN COULD BE. MOUNTS, WHETHER THEY BE HORSES OR CAMELS COULD ONLY TRAVEL SO FAR.

"EVEN SHIPS CARRYING A HUNDRED OR MORE MEN AT A TIME WERE SUBJECT TO WEATHER CONDITIONS. PATIENCE WAS STILL SOMETHING BOTH GOD AND SATAN HAD A HARD TIME ACCEPTING. I THINK THEY FEARED 'MOTHER NATURE' WOULD COME AGAIN AND POISON THE AIR AND WATER. SO THEY SENT MESSENGERS OF THEIR OWN TO HELP MANKIND SPEED UP HIS DEVELOPMENT.

"THESE MESSENGERS BECAME KNOWN AS ANGELS OR DEMONS-- DEPENDING ON WHO SENT THEM. BUT EITHER WAY THEIR GOALS WERE EXACTLY THE SAME. HELP MAN LEARN HOW TO KILL BETTER AND FASTER."

"THEN IT ALL HIT A TIPPING POINT! HISTORY CALLS IT THE 'INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION'. HISTORIANS STILL GUSH OVER THE ADVANCEMENTS OF CHAIN SUPPLIES, MANUFACTURING AND THE BEGINNING OF ASSEMBLY LINES. BUT IT WAS REALLY A NEW TOOL WE COULD USE FOR KILLING ONE ANOTHER AT EFFICIENCY RATES ONLY DREAMED OF BEFORE.

"BECAUSE THIS TIME THE WORLD WAS WILLING TO SIMULTANEOUSLY JOIN IN WAR. MEANING MORE PEOPLE DIED IN A SHORTER PERIOD OF TIME. IT WAS ECSTASY TO BOTH HEAVEN AND HELL. SOULS WERE BEING DELIVERED AT THEIR FASTEST RATE YET.

"WHICH IN TURN ONLY FED THE ADRENALINE RUSH BEING FELT BY GOD AND SATAN. THEY COULD, FOR THE FIRST TIME, ACTUALLY FEEL THEY WERE GETTING CLOSER TO THEIR INTENDED GOAL."





"BUT THEY NEEDED A FEW KEY MEN THEY COULD CORRUPT--THOSE WHO HELD INFLUENCE OVER THE THOUGHTS AND LIVES OF SO MANY OTHERS. GOD SELECTED ONE. SATAN TOOK THE OTHER. SOON A SECOND WAR WITH THE WORLD WAS UNDERWAY.

"ONE OF THE RECRUITS WAS ONLY MORE THAN HAPPY TO JUMP INTO THE FRAY BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN PROMISED MORE POWER AND STATURE THAN HE'D EVER HAD AS A COMMON ARTIST. THAT HE WAS IN JAIL WHEN THE OFFER WAS PRESENTED TO HIM ONLY MADE IT THAT MUCH EASIER.

"THE OTHER MAJOR PRINCIPAL HELD OUT MUCH, MUCH LONGER, UNTIL FINALLY COMMITTING HIS PEOPLE TO YEARS OF SLAUGHTER. IRONICALLY, IT WAS A HANDFUL OF SCIENTISTS, NOT WARRIORS, THAT BECAME PIVOTAL. INSTEAD OF GAS OR GRENADES, THE CREATION OF THE HYDROGEN BOMB ALLOWED A FEW MILITARY MEN TO ERADICATE A DENSELY POPULATED AREA.

"THE OTHER GERMAN RECRUIT TOOK A MORE CRUDE FASHION TO KILLING HIS ENEMIES. HE SIMPLY BURNT THEM. BY THE TIME IT WAS DONE THE WAR'S DEAD NUMBERED IN THE MILLIONS. YET INSTEAD OF HAVING THE CARNAGE BECOME A DETERRENT TO FUTURE CLASHES, IT JUST STOKED THE FIRES. NEARLY EVERY MAJOR NATION WANTED TO GET THEIR HANDS ON THE SAME NUCLEAR DEVICE THAT HAD KILLED SO MANY, SO FAST."



"ALONG THE WAY THERE WERE A FEW HICCUPS TO THEIR PLANS. YOUR FIRST CATHOLIC PRESIDENT WAS ONE OF THEM. ORIGINALLY HE'D AGREED TO GO ALONG LIKE ALL THE OTHERS BY CONTINUING TO RAMP UP THE GLOBAL DESTRUCTION THAT HAD NOW PLANTED ITS SEED IN EVERY NATION.

"THE PINNACLE EVENT IS WHAT WAS CALLED THE 'COLD WAR.' THAT CONFLICT WAS TO HAVE KICK-STARTED A NUCLEAR CHAIN REACTION WHICH MAY HAVE ULTIMATELY WIPED OUT MANKIND. KENNEDY, PERHAPS SENSING THE MAGNITUDE OF WHAT MIGHT COME, CHANGED COURSE AND PREVENTED WAR.

"A SHORT WHILE LATER HE WAS GIVEN ANOTHER CHANCE TO REDEEM HIMSELF. HE FAILED THAT TEST TOO. SO WHEN HE BECAME AWARE OF A SMALL INSTALLATION--CODENAME *THE PROJECT*--THAT HAD BEGUN ITS OWN EXPERIMENTS TO GENETICALLY GROW SOLDIERS CAPABLE OF IGNITING POTENTIAL WARS THEMSELVES, GOD AND SATAN KNEW HE'D BALK AGAIN.

"SO THEY ELIMINATED HIM. ALONG WITH A FEW OTHER LEADERS AROUND THE WORLD AND REPLACED THEM WITH MORE WILLING SERVANTS. THOSE MOVES ESCALATED THE ALREADY ACTIVE BATTLES IN VIETNAM."



"BY THEN THE WORLD HAD BECOME ONE CONTINUOUS WAR ZONE, WHERE THERE WAS NEVER A SINGLE MOMENT IN WHICH MAN WAS NOT IN CONFLICT WITH HIMSELF. DESERT STORM. AFGHANISTAN. IRAN. IRAQ. WARS AREN'T BEING FOUGHT FOR THE REASONS REPORTED IN THE NEWS. THEY'RE BEING FOUGHT BECAUSE HEAVEN AND HELL WANT THEM TO BE."

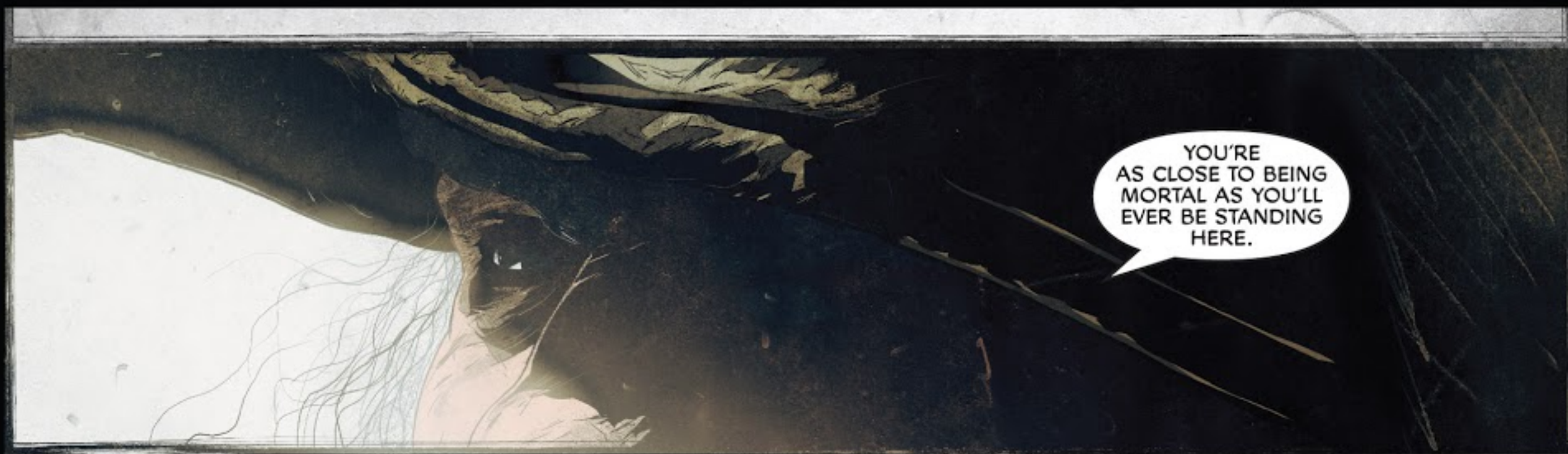
"AND TO MAKE SURE ALL OF IT GOES THEIR WAY-- EACH HAS SENT, FROM TIME TO TIME, THEIR BEST WARRIORS TO EARTH HOPING THEY'LL INCITE MORE BATTLES DIRECTLY OR MERELY BY THEIR VERY EXISTENCE."

"THAT'S WHERE YOU AND I COME IN. BEING SPAWNS, WE'RE PART OF THIS BULLSHIT! THAT'S WHAT THIS PIECE OF DIRT IS HERE FOR. IT'S THE SPOT WHERE WE GET PLACED AFTER BEING CHOSEN TO BE A SPAWN."

"THESE 'DEAD ZONES' ARE WHERE HEAVEN PLACES SATAN'S WARRIORS. THAT'S PART OF THE DEAL THE BROTHERS MADE. WHOEVER WANTS TO SEND THEIR WARRIOR AGENT BACK TO EARTH MUST LET THE OTHER CHOOSE WHERE THAT AGENT WILL APPEAR IN THE WORLD. SINCE SPAWNS COME FROM HELL... GOD GETS TO PLACE US WHERE HE WANTS."

"AND EVEN IF WE WANTED, WE COULD NEVER RETALIATE AGAINST GOD. SEE, THERE'S A REASON THEY CALL THESE 'DEAD ZONES.' IT'S BECAUSE NONE OF OUR POWERS WORK WHEN WE'RE STANDING INSIDE ONE. TRY USING YOUR CHAINS OR YOUR ECTOPLASM. THEY WON'T WORK! NONE OF YOUR COSTUME WILL."





YOU'RE AS CLOSE TO BEING MORTAL AS YOU'LL EVER BE STANDING HERE.



I WAS FEELING SOMETHING.

TELL ME SOMETHING... WHY'S BLUDD TRYING TO HIDE THIS?

HE GOT LOCKED IN LIMBO FOR A VERY LONG TIME AND HE'S ALWAYS BLAMED GOD FOR THAT. FOR CENTURIES HE'S BEEN WAITING TO EXACT HIS REVENGE. NOW HE THINKS HE'S FOUND A WAY TO DO THAT.



Elsewhere.



WE'RE ALL HERE, BLUDD. WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO NOW?

TO BE CONTINUED



SPAWN

NEW YORK CLASH
"SOUNDING THE CALL DAILY"

EVENING EDITION

VOL. MMIX, No. 239

NY'S SEXIEST SAVIOR OWNING DOES IT AGAIN!

Holy Healer

Miracle Making

Healer

Makes Waves

owning: Devil in Disguise

The Origins of Healer's Powers

Local Man 'Heals' Accident Victim



McFARLANE
co.

The Vatican.



THEY
DECIDED LAST
NIGHT THEY
WEREN'T WILLING
TO WAIT FOR
ANY MORE
REPORTS.



THEY FEEL
THEY HAVE
ENOUGH
INFORMATION
ALREADY.

IT'S TOO
SOON! PLEASE...
TALK TO THEM. TELL
THEM I'M ABOUT TO SEND
OUT MY LATEST FINDINGS
ON DOWNING. THEY
CAN'T MOVE RIGHT
NOW.

I'M SORRY,
FATHER
HALLWELL, IT'S
OUT OF MY
HANDS.

New York City.



LOOK... IF YOU MAKE
YOUR MOVE NOW YOU'LL LOSE!
IT'S THAT SIMPLE. MY READINGS ON
DOWNING SAY THAT HIS POWER LEVELS FAR
EXCEED ANYTHING THE CHURCH HAS HAD TO DEAL
WITH IN CENTURIES. AND IF YOU DON'T PLAN
THIS RIGHT, IT'LL BACK FIRE! YOU UNDERSTAND?
EVERYTHING YOU'RE TRYING TO PROTECT,
THE ENTIRE CATHOLIC SYSTEM
COULD BE AT RISK.

JUST GET THEM TO
WAIT ANOTHER DAY. I'LL
BE ON A FLIGHT TONIGHT
BRINGING YOU EVERY-
THING I HAVE.

IT'S NOT
ANOTHER REPORT THEY
WANT. IT'S DOWNING! YOU
SAID YOU COULD DELIVER
HIM TO US, BUT FROM THE
ACTIONS WE'VE SEEN SO
FAR YOU'VE FAILED ON
THAT MISSION.

I KEEP TELLING
YOU-- WE PUSH DOWNING
TOO FAST HE WON'T CONVERT.
THEN THE POPE LOSES ANY CHANCE
OF CONTROLLING THE DIVINITY
JIM WIELDS. WITHOUT HIM THE
VATICAN'S CREDIBILITY IS
ON THE LINE.

IT'S ALREADY ON THE
LINE! OUR FOLLOWERS ARE
BEGINNING TO ASK QUESTIONS.
RIGHT NOW WE DON'T HAVE MANY
GOOD ANSWERS. SO-- SHORT OF
BRINGING DOWNING WITH YOU
ON YOUR PLANE TRIP...



...I'M
NOT SURE
THERE'S
MUCH I
CAN DO.

GOOD
NIGHT,
FATHER.



KLIK



HOW DID HALLWELL TAKE THE NEWS?

NOT WELL.



THAT WAS TO BE EXPECTED.

HIS PROBLEM IS HE THINKS TIME *DOESN'T* MATTER. THAT ALL OF THIS IS GOING TO JUST WAIT 'TIL HE'S DONE HIS PART. HE'S BEING NAIVE. WE DON'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO CONTAIN THIS SOON, WE MIGHT NOT GET ANOTHER CHANCE.

SO...



...I HEARD THE INVOCATION WORKED?



NOT ON ITS OWN-- BUT FATHER GREGORY DID HIS RITUAL.

AND THE BEING FROM THE SHADOWS, DO WE KNOW WHERE HE'S FROM?



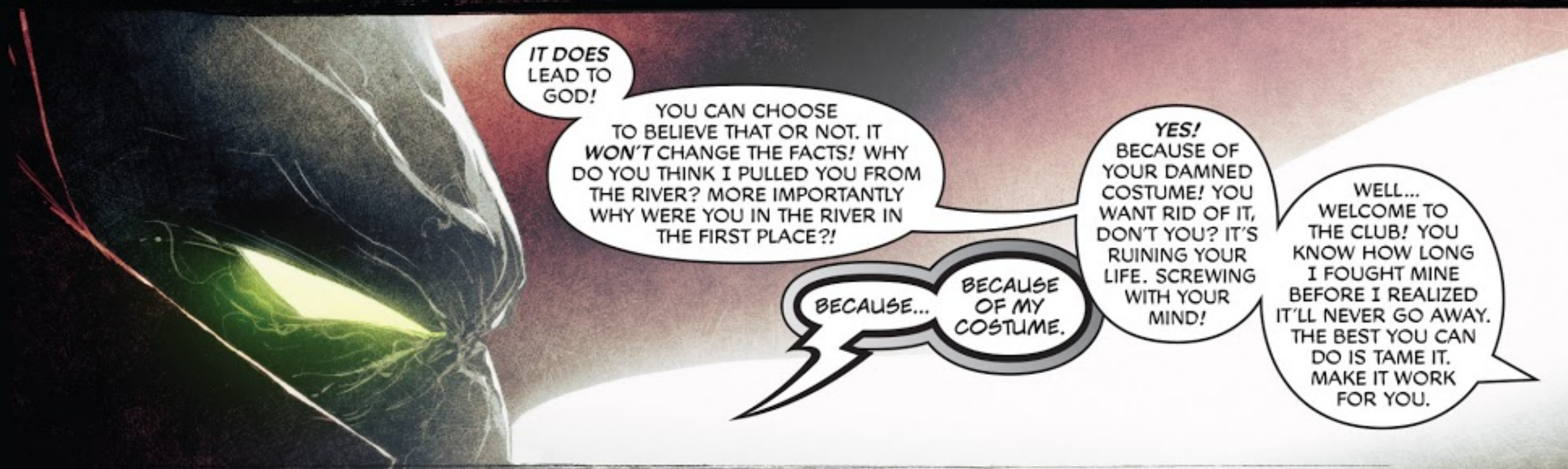
NOT YET. HE HASN'T BEEN WILLING TO TALK.

A dramatic illustration of Spider-Man in a dark, industrial setting. He is bound by thick metal chains that hang from above and wrap around his torso and limbs. A powerful, glowing orange and yellow energy beam, resembling a laser or a beam of fire, cuts through the dark space, passing behind him and illuminating his suit. The beam has a bright yellow core and a softer orange glow. Spider-Man's mask is visible, with his eyes glowing green. The overall atmosphere is one of confinement and intense energy.

THOUGH
FATHER GREGORY
THINKS HE MIGHT
COME FROM THE
MEDIEVAL
TIMES!



SO IF
BLUDD FIGURES
OUT HOW TO UNLOCK
THIS ENTRANCE... YOU'RE
SAYING IT MIGHT
LEAD TO GOD?



IT DOES
LEAD TO
GOD!

YOU CAN CHOOSE
TO BELIEVE THAT OR NOT. IT
WON'T CHANGE THE FACTS! WHY
DO YOU THINK I PULLED YOU FROM
THE RIVER? MORE IMPORTANTLY
WHY WERE YOU IN THE RIVER IN
THE FIRST PLACE?!

BECAUSE...

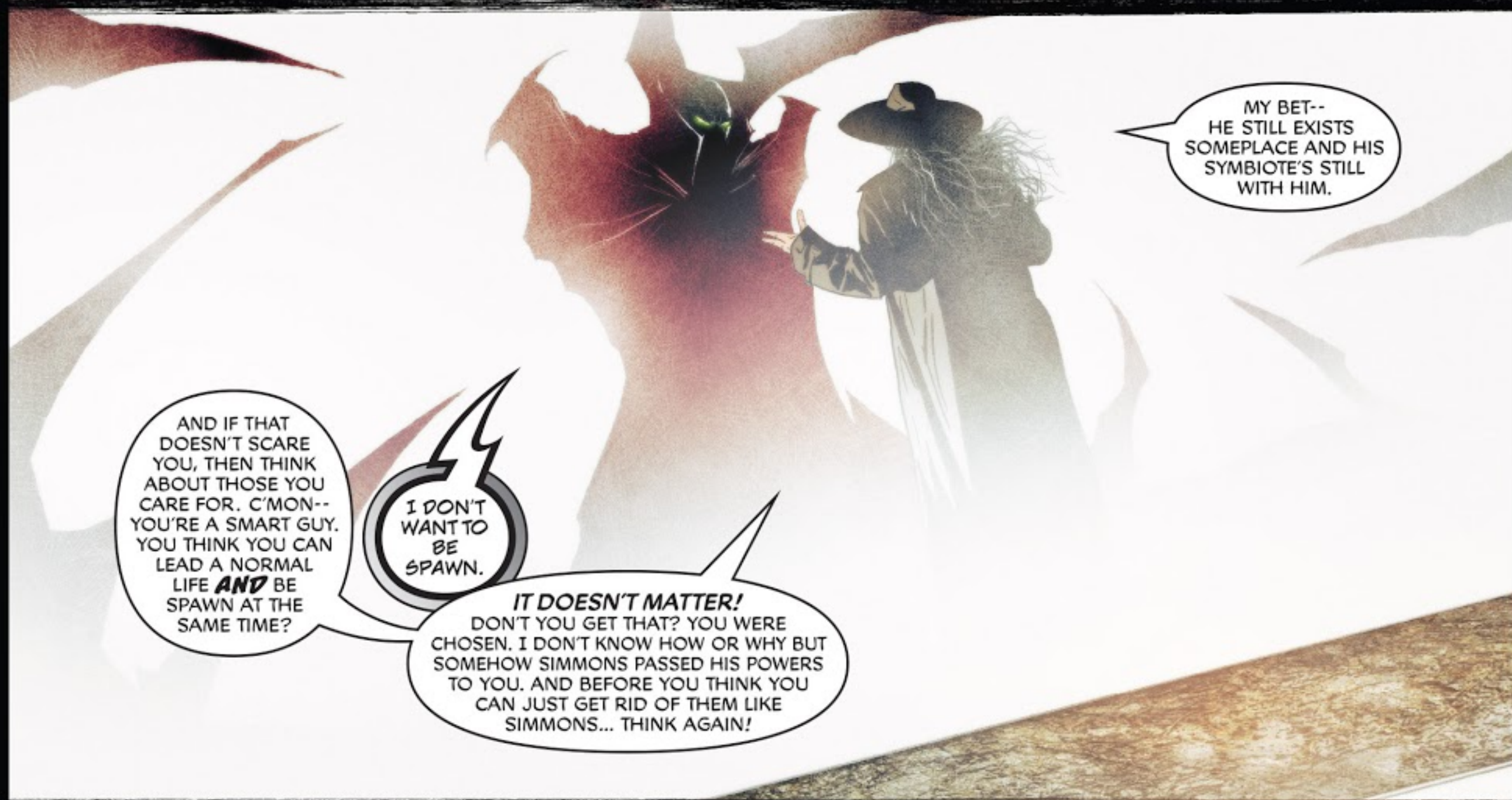
BECAUSE
OF MY
COSTUME.

YES!
BECAUSE OF
YOUR DAMNED
COSTUME! YOU
WANT RID OF IT,
DON'T YOU? IT'S
RUINING YOUR
LIFE. SCREWING
WITH YOUR
MIND!

WELL...
WELCOME TO
THE CLUB! YOU
KNOW HOW LONG
I FOUGHT MINE
BEFORE I REALIZED
IT'LL NEVER GO AWAY.
THE BEST YOU CAN
DO IS TAME IT.
MAKE IT WORK
FOR YOU.



CURRENTLY
IT'S THE
OTHER WAY
AROUND.



MY BET--
HE STILL EXISTS
SOMEPLACE AND HIS
SYMBIOTE'S STILL
WITH HIM.

AND IF THAT
DOESN'T SCARE
YOU, THEN THINK
ABOUT THOSE YOU
CARE FOR. C'MON--
YOU'RE A SMART GUY.
YOU THINK YOU CAN
LEAD A NORMAL
LIFE **AND** BE
SPAWN AT THE
SAME TIME?

I DON'T
WANT TO
BE
SPAWN.

IT DOESN'T MATTER!
DON'T YOU GET THAT? YOU WERE
CHOSEN. I DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHY BUT
SOMEHOW SIMMONS PASSED HIS POWERS
TO YOU. AND BEFORE YOU THINK YOU
CAN JUST GET RID OF THEM LIKE
SIMMONS... THINK AGAIN!



THE PIECE
HE GAVE YOU
JUST GREW.



AND IT'S
EATING YOUR
MIND, ISN'T IT?
THAT'S WHY YOU
WERE IN THE RIVER.
YOU WANTED TO
ESCAPE IT. EVEN
IF IT MEANT
DROWNING
YOURSELF.

IT'S NOT
THAT EASY. THE
SYMBIOTE WON'T LET
YOU KILL YOURSELF. IF
I HADN'T PULLED YOU
OUT IT WOULD HAVE
SAVED YOU. IT NEEDS
YOU AS MUCH AS
YOU NEED IT.



I
DON'T
NEED
IT.

THAT'S WHAT I
THOUGHT TOO. MAYBE IT
WORKS DIFFERENTLY FOR YOU
BECAUSE YOU'RE... 'UNIQUE.' SIMMONS
AND I, WE BOTH DIED BEFORE GETTING
OUR COSTUMES. YOU DIDN'T-- SO THE
RULES MAY BE DIFFERENT FOR YOU. BUT
BEING ABLE TO STRIP YOURSELF OF IT
COMPLETELY... I CAN'T BELIEVE
YOU CAN DO THAT.



TELL YOUR
COSTUME TO GO
AWAY. I NEED
TO TRY SOME-
THING.



**KILL
ME!**

BRING YOUR
COSTUME BACK
AND LET IT TRY AND
**KILL
ME!**

GOD
DAMN YOU!
DO IT NOW
BEFORE I
CUT YOU IN
HALF!



YOU CAN'T--
CAN YOU? I TOLD
YOU IT DOESN'T WORK
HERE. NOT IN THE
'DEAD ZONE.'



YOUR
SYMBIOTE CAN'T
PROTECT YOU-- EVEN
IF YOU WANTED
IT TO. IT HAS NO POWER
OVER YOU. REMEMBER
HOW THIS FEELS
RIGHT NOW!

BECAUSE
THAT'S HOW
IT NEEDS TO FEEL
TO YOU *ALL*
THE TIME!



YOU MUST
CONTROL IT.
ALWAYS!



WHY...
ARE YOU
DOING
THIS?

BECAUSE
YOU'RE
DIFFERENT.

MY SWORD!
DO YOU SEE IT?
LOOK AT ME! DO YOU
SEE IT? IT SHOULDN'T
EXIST. NOT HERE--
NOT NOW!



THE ONLY
REASON IT DOES
IS BECAUSE I'M NEAR
YOU. YOU HAVE MORE
POWER THAN ANY OF US WILL
EVER KNOW. AND IF YOU
CAN SOMEHOW FIGURE OUT
HOW TO HARNESS THAT
POWER THEN MAYBE...
JUST MAYBE... YOU CAN
FREE US BOTH FROM
OUR CURSE.

Long Island, New York.



**KNOK
KNOK**



HELLO?

ARE YOU
THE ONE I
TALKED WITH
ON THE
PHONE?



YES, MA'AM.
MY NAME IS
DANIEL KILGORE.*
THANK YOU FOR
GIVING ME A FEW
MINUTES.

*A.K.A. Haunt



IT'S NO
BOTHER.
ESPECIALLY SINCE
DOCTOR McVEY
SPOKE SO HIGHLY
OF YOU. PLEASE!...
COME IN.

THANKS.
I HOPE I'M
NOT BOTHERING
YOU OR YOUR
HUSBAND.

HEAVENS
NO! EVER SINCE
HE'S BEEN OUT OF
THE HOSPITAL HE'S
HAD THE ENERGY
OF A TWENTY
YEAR OLD...

Though I
wish he had
the body of one
too. But don't
tell him I said
that.



I'LL
GO GET
HIM FOR
YOU.



YOU SAID YOU WERE INTERESTED IN DOING SOME FOLLOW UP WITH HIM?

THAT'S ALL. I'M CHECKING ON ALL OF THE PATIENTS THAT WERE IN CONTACT WITH MR. DOWNING WHEN HE SHARED A ROOM WITH THEM.

HE'S BECOMING A BIG STAR... ISN'T HE?



BENNY, THAT PRIEST IS HERE I TOLD YOU ABOUT. AND PUT AWAY THAT CANE, I WAS JUST BRAGGING ABOUT YOUR HEALTH.

OLD HABIT. MAKES ME COMFORTABLE.



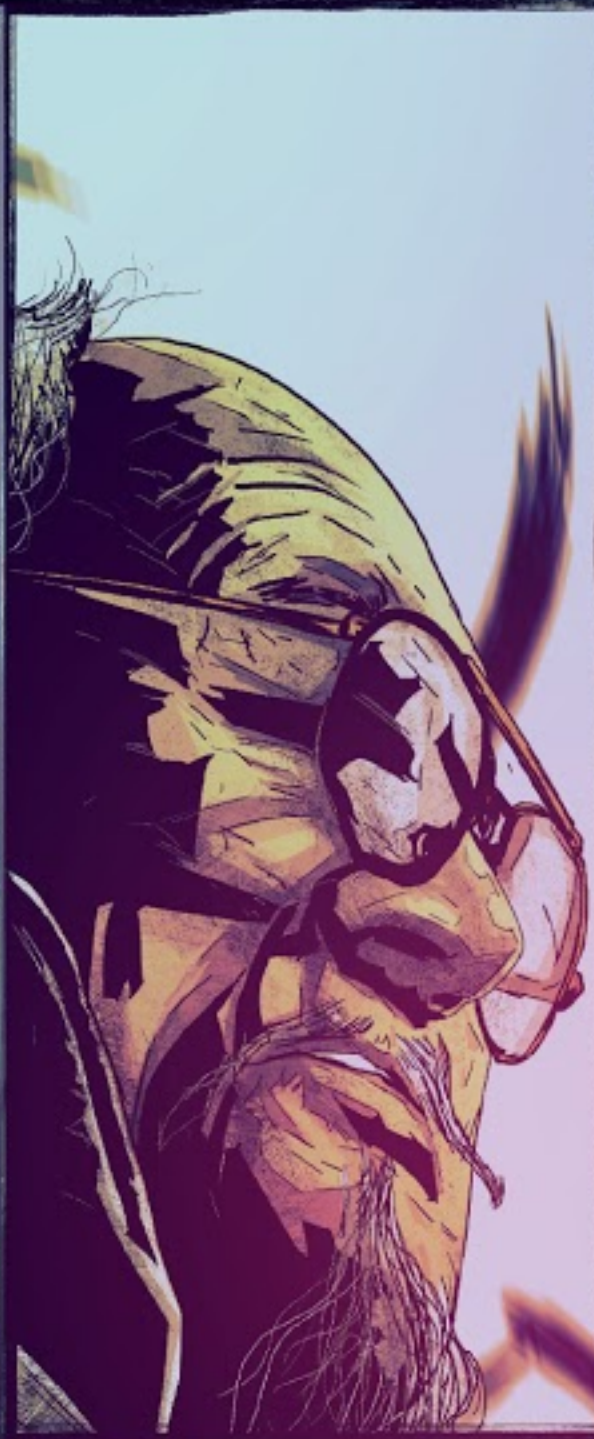
MORNING, MR. CHEN, THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME COME OVER AND ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS.

HOW YOU BEEN FEELING LATELY?

GOOD. ACTUALLY GREAT, THANKS TO MR. DOWNING.



SOMEDAY I NEED TO THANK HIM PERSONALLY FOR WHAT HE DID FOR ME.



uh...



SOME-
THING
WRONG,
SON?

YOU LOOK
LIKE YOU'VE
SEEN A
GHOST.



THIS IS STUPID!

SO YOU KEEP SAYING.

WHY COULDN'T HE SEND HIS OWN CREW?

IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY. HOW MANY TIMES WE HAVE TO GO OVER THIS? BESIDES, WHO CARES WHO **BLUDD** RECRUITS-- AS LONG AS IT HELPS US.

I GUESS THAT'S WHERE YOU AND I DISAGREE. I DON'T THINK THIS HELPS. I THINK **BLUDD**'S PLAYING US.

OH YEAH?



YEAH! I KNOW YOU DON'T SEE IT, BUT HE'S USING US. AND I'M STARTING TO GET TIRED OF IT. WE SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR OUR BROTHER, NOT **JERKING OFF** OUT HERE!

THE PROBLEM WITH YOU IS YOU'RE TOO THICK TO UNDERSTAND THIS'LL HELP US FIND HIM.*

*Their brother was taken by Spawn in Issue 213 --TODD



THE MORE DISTRACTIONS SPAWN HAS THE BETTER. THEN WE NAIL HIM AS HARD AS WE CAN UNTIL HE SHOWS US WHERE HE'S HIDING **FREDDIE**.

SO PUT A LID ON IT FOR NOW.

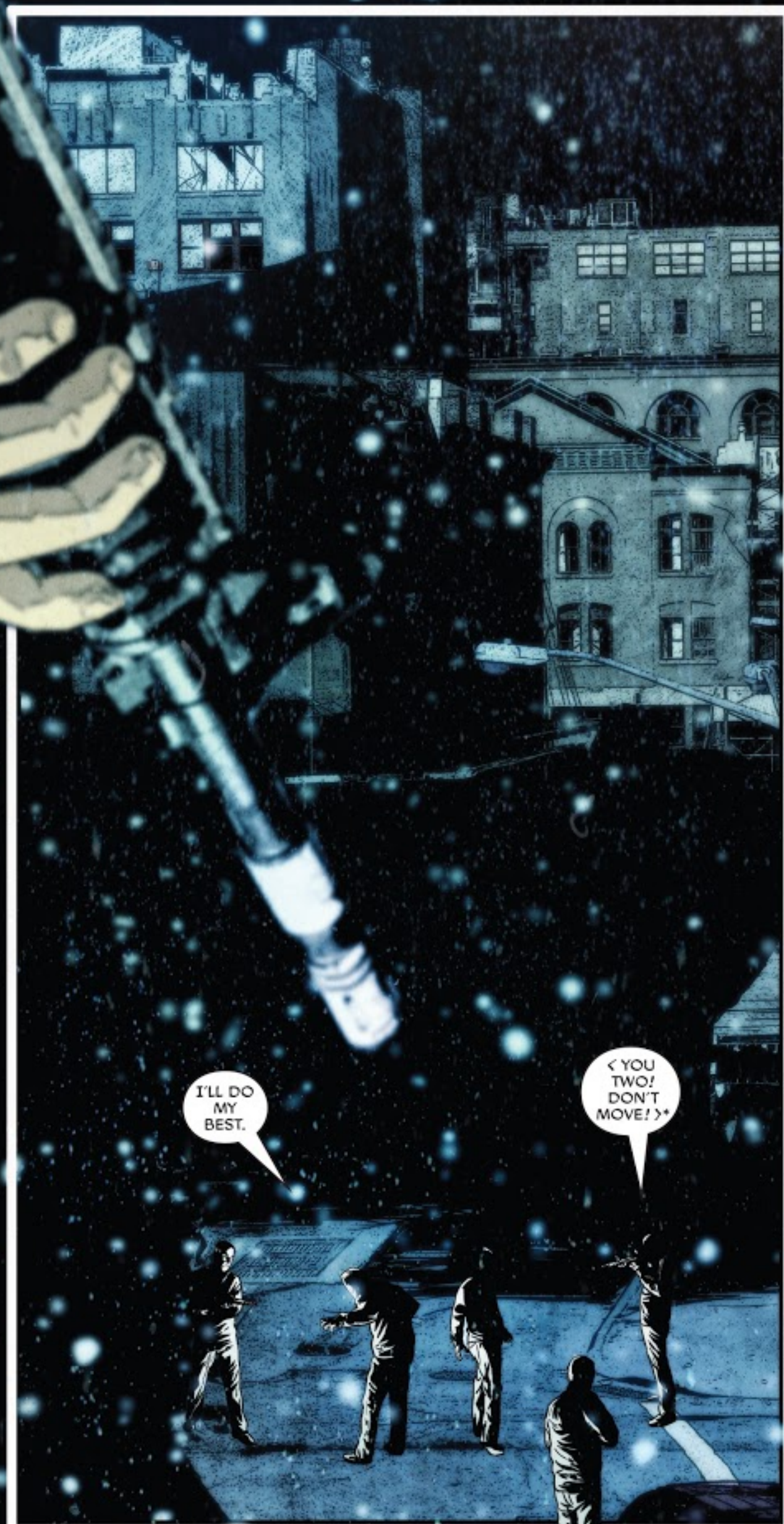


WE'RE BEING WATCHED.

YOU'RE RIGHT... I SMELL THEM.



HERE THEY COME. TRY AND CONTROL YOURSELF.



I'LL DO
MY
BEST.

< YOU
TWO!
DON'T
MOVE! >*

* Translated from
Ukrainian.



< BOSS...
THIS IS ROOFTOP 4.
THEY'VE ARRIVED.
WE'RE SEARCHING
THEM NOW. BE YOUR
WAY IN FIFTEEN
MINUTES. >

< EXCELLENT.
MAKE SURE THEY
STAY TOGETHER.
WE DON'T HAVE
ENOUGH FIRE POWER
TO HUNT TWO OF
THEM. >

< YES,
SIR. >

< ALL RIGHT,
BOYS... WE'RE
CLEAR! BRING
THEM IN! >



< ALL RIGHT, GENTLEMEN. KEEP YOUR HANDS UP AND FOLLOW US. >

ARE WE SUPPOSED TO UNDERSTAND THESE PRICKS?

YOU SHOULD-- REMEMBER WE WERE HERE ABOUT 700 YEARS AGO DURING THAT ONE MISSION?



< ROOFTOP 3, THIS IS ROOFTOP 5... THEY MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVES... SHOOT THEM! >



< AND MAKE SURE IT'S A HEAD SHOT. IT'S THE ONLY WAY THEY DIE. >

< GOT IT. >



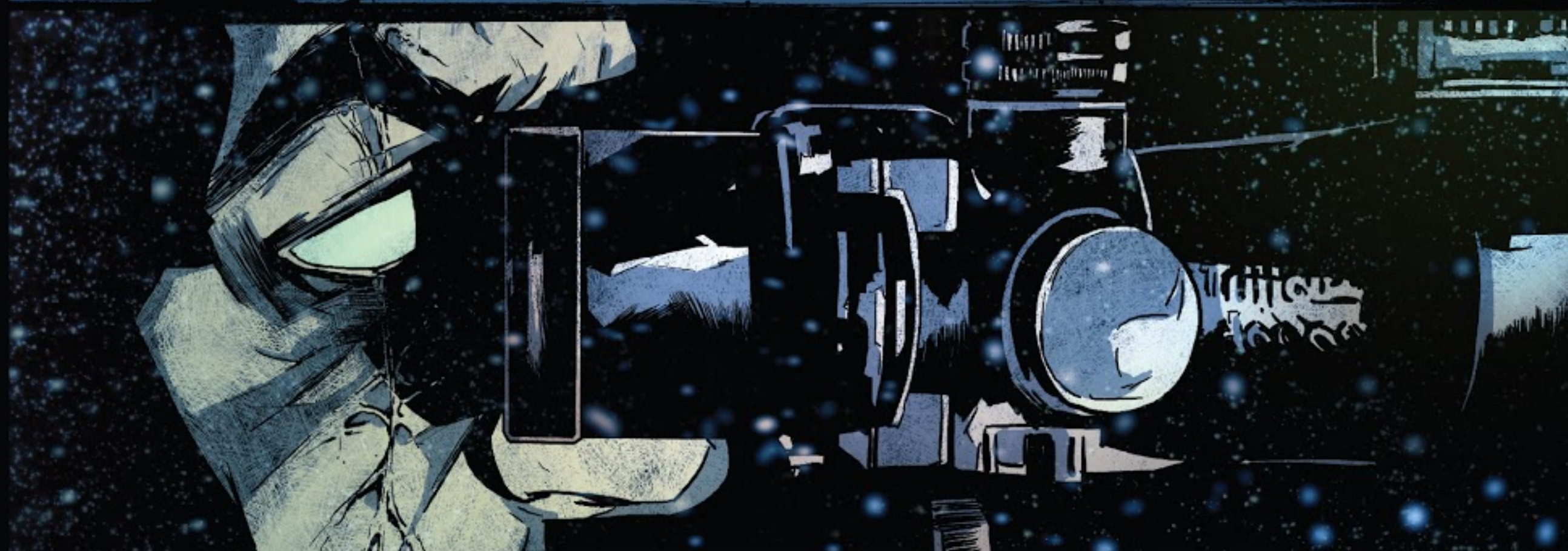
I'M SUPPOSED TO REMEMBER WHAT WE DID 700 YEARS AGO? REALLY?

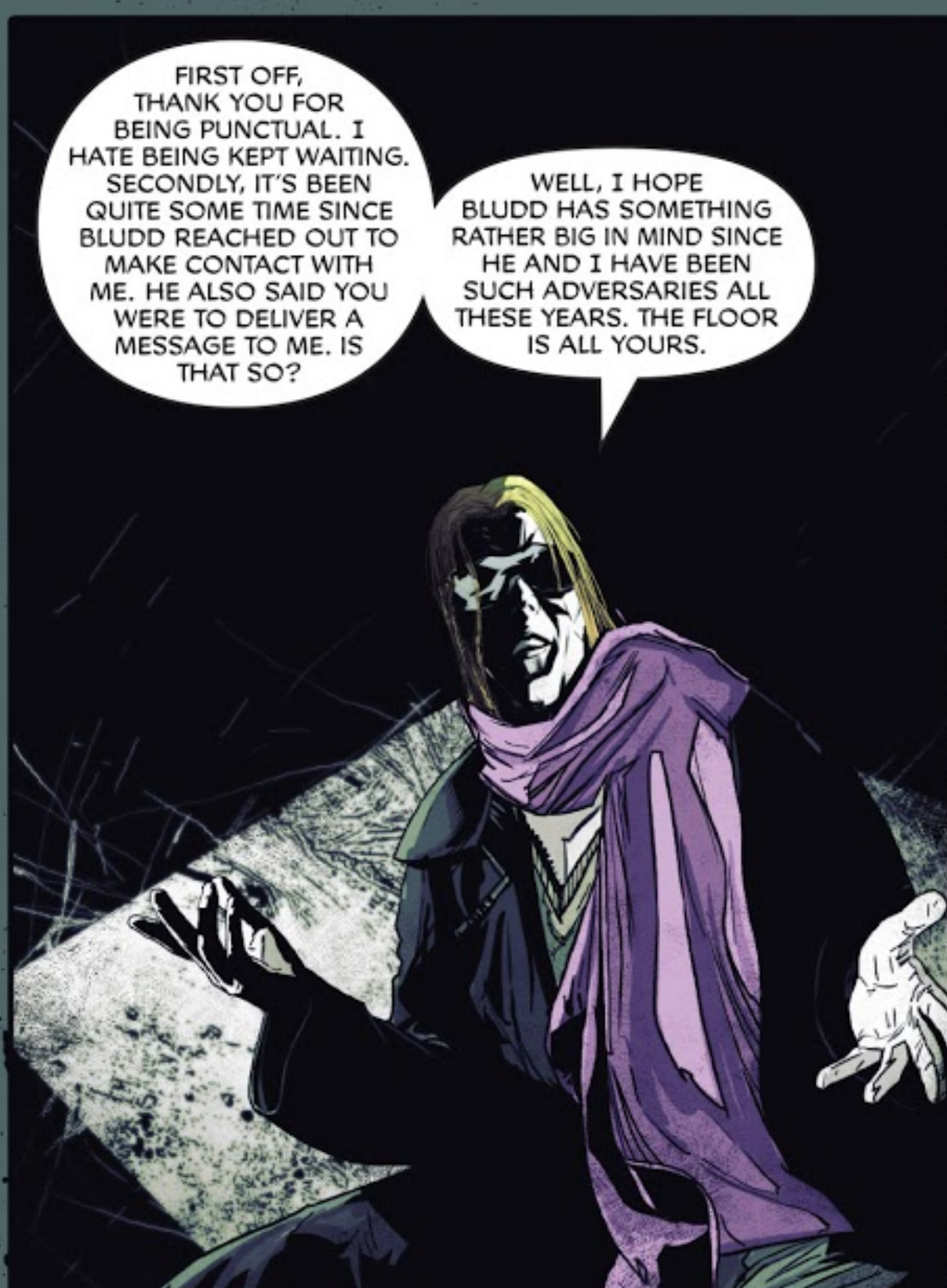


YOU SHOULD. THAT'S WHERE YOU WIPED OUT THAT ARMY WHEN YOUR ARM WAS BROKEN.

THAT'S RIGHT!... WASN'T IT THAT TIME THEY TRIED LIGHTING ME ON FIRE AND CUTTING ME IN HALF? THOSE GUYS WERE A BUNCH OF LOSERS! I WASN'T THERE LONG ENOUGH TO PICK UP THEIR LANGUAGE.

< QUIET! >







BLUDD
WANTS A
TRUCE!

YOUR PEOPLE
JOIN HIS FOR SIX
MONTHS AND HE SAID
HE'LL HAND OVER WHAT
YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING
FOR. IF NOT...

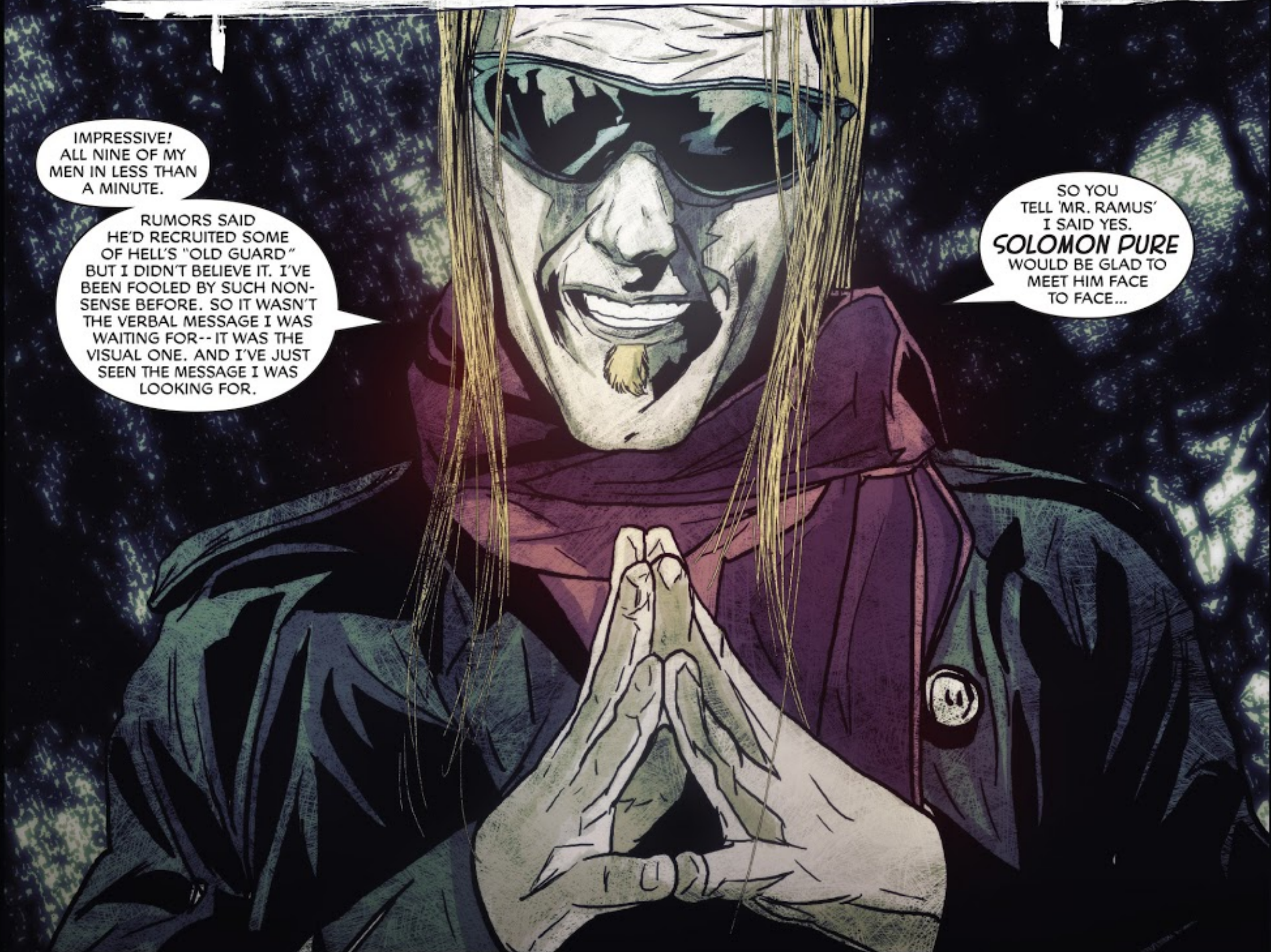
...WE
KEEP KILLING
YOUR SIDE
UNTIL YOU
SAY YES.



IMPRESSIVE!
ALL NINE OF MY
MEN IN LESS THAN
A MINUTE.

RUMORS SAID
HE'D RECRUITED SOME
OF HELL'S "OLD GUARD"
BUT I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT. I'VE
BEEN FOOLED BY SUCH NON-
SENSE BEFORE. SO IT WASN'T
THE VERBAL MESSAGE I WAS
WAITING FOR-- IT WAS THE
VISUAL ONE. AND I'VE JUST
SEEN THE MESSAGE I WAS
LOOKING FOR.

SO YOU
TELL 'MR. RAMUS'
I SAID YES.
SOLOMON PURE
WOULD BE GLAD TO
MEET HIM FACE
TO FACE...



...SEE, IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THE TWO STRAINS OF VAMPIRES HAVE A COMMON PURPOSE. HELL, I'VE BEEN BATTLING BLUDD MY WHOLE LIFE, BUT IN ALL THAT TIME HE'S NEVER OFFERED AN OPEN HAND. SO, EITHER HE'S DESPERATE AND DOESN'T BELIEVE HE CAN BEAT ME **OR** AS I'VE BEEN HEARING-- HE'S FOUND SOMETHING SO VALUABLE THAT THE ONLY WAY HE CAN UNLOCK IT IS WITH MY HELP.

EITHER WAY,
**I'M
IN!**

THIS
SHOULD BE
FUN!

TO BE CONTINUED

